tion (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) Notification G.S.R. No. 566, dated the 26th July, 1986, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-3237/86.]

Report and Accounts (1985-86) of the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers :—

(i) Annual Report of the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of water Pollution, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86, under sub-section (1) of section 39 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

(ii) Annual Accounts of the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86, together with the Auditors' Report thereon, under sub-section (6) of section 40 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

(iii) Statement by Government accepting the Annual Report mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3246/86 for (i) to (iii)]

STATEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table he following statements (in English and Hindi) of the Public Accounts Committee :—

(i) Statement showing action taken by Government on the reocmmendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 14th Report of the Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Union Excise Duties—Exemption of Goods falling under Tariff Item 68.

(ii) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 189th Report of the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Procurement and utilisation of 10-Ten Chasis and Vehicles built thereon.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY, TRIVANDRUM

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of clause (j) of section 5 of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum Act, 1980 (52 of 1980), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of the House to be a member of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—

Power crisis in the country causing loss of production in Agricultural and Industrial Sectors

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, now we shall take up the Calling Attention Motion. Yes, Mr. Kapnath Rai.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Energy to the power crisis in the country causing loss of production in the agricultural and industrial sectors and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Madam, I I share the concern of the Hon'ble Members about power shortages in the country. The present power shortage is mainly on account of the demand for power outstripping the generation and reduced hydel generation due to low reservoir levels.

The States which had power shortages of over 10 per cent during April to October, 1986 include Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar and Orissa. In States such as Kerala and Karnataka, the shortage was mainly due to low hydel generation. The shortage in other States was largely on account of the unsatisfactory performance of their thermal stations.

We have a programme to commission an additional generating capacity of 22,245 MW in the Seventh Plan period. A capacity of over 5000 MW has been added so far. Projects with a total capacity of about 30,000 MW are under implementation at present. Most of these projects are in the State sector and concerted efforts are being made to expedite the commissioning of these projects. In addition, gas based power stations with a total capacity of over 2000 MW are being set up to augment the availability of power in the shortest possible time.

Hon'ble Members would be glad to know that the first 500 MW unit in the Central sector is expected to be commissioned by the National Thermal Power Corporation before the end of 1986. This will benefit the States in the Northern region which are experiencing power shortages.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, we had exceeded the target of generating 170 billion units of electricity in 1985-86. During April to October in the current year, the generation of electricity has registered an increase of 10.2 per cent over the generation is the same period of the last year. This has been achieved in spite of the hydel liberation being less than the programme by 1.2 billion units due to low reservoir levels. Thermal generation has been low in some states mainly due to backing down of units in the Northern region because of weather conditions and unscheduled long duration outages of some units. Measures have been taken to improve the generation and, as a result, thermal generation has now registered an increase. During September and October this year, thermal generation was 20.9 billion units as compared with the programme of 20.5 billion units. I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that no effort will be spared to ensure that this increase in generation is maintained and is even improved upon during the coming months.

The Central sector stations have continued to perform at high levels of efficiency. During April to October, 1986 these stations have achieved a Plant Load Factor of 62.7 per cent. The Plant Load Factor of thermal stations in the States during the same period was 47.6 per cent. Although the generating capacity in the Central sector is about 16 per cent of the total capacity, power generation by Central stations has assisted substantially in mitigating the power shortages in the States and in enabling them to manage the demand. With the increasing share of Central generation, the stability of power supply is expected to improve further.

To mitigate the power shortage assistance is arranged for deficit areas from neighbouring systems to the extent possible. In implementation of demand management measures a higher priority is accorded to the agricultural sector so that its minimum requirements can be met. Hon'ble Members would be glad to know that in the first six months of the current year, 4125 villages have been electrified and about 1.42 lakh pump sets have been energised against the target of electrification of 4553 villages and energisation of about 1.06 lakh pump sets. The States have also been meeting the requirement of the industrial sector to the extent possible, depending upon the availability of power and keeping in view the priority accorded to the core sector industries such as aluminium, coal, steel and fertilizer.

In order to increase the availability of power, the States are implementing measures to reduce their transmission and distribution losses. Hon'ble Members are aware that the Indian Electricity Act has been amended recently to make the theft of energy a cognizable offence and stringent punishments have also been provided. The Central Electricity Authority has issued guidelines to the State Electricity Boards for reduction in T&D losses. It is now for the State authorities to enforce stringent measures to prevent pilferage of energy and to reduce the technical losses in the transmission and distribution of power.

Hon'ble Members would appreciate that, within the overall constraint of resources, there has been a considerable improvement in the availability of power. Some States are still facing a power shortage and measures are being taken to reduce these shortages. I may assure the House that no effort will be spared to assist the States in all possible ways to meet their power requirements to the extent possible.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, पूरे देश में और विशेष रूप से गांवों में खेती करने वाले किसानों को विद्युत संकट का मुकाबला करना पड़ रहा है । मैंने यह सवाल आपके सामने इसलिए लाया क्योंकि मेरे पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के कई लोगों ने और स्वयं अपनी पार्टी के कई कार्यकर्ताओं ने मुझे बताया कि इस समय बुआई के सीजन में गांव के लोगों को बिजली नहीं मिल रही है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप रबी की फसल को उगाने में और खेत तैयार करने में किसानों को काफी संकट का मुकाबला करना पड़ रहा है । आज देश के हजारों कारखानों में बिजली का संकट उत्पन्न है, करोड़ों किसानों के नलकूप बिजली के संकट के कारण ठीक से नहीं चल रहे हैं। कारखानों में बिजली का संकट होने के कारण ले-आफ की स्थिति पैदा होती है । बिजली के संकट के कारण ग्रोस नेशनल प्रोडक्शन पर गहरा असर पड़ रहा है ।

आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदया, अगर आप अखबार पढ़ें तो अखबारों में रोज यह खबरें आती हैं :—

Black-out in north India; Industrial growth slowed down by power-cut; Breakdown by Delhi power network; Paradip hit by power crisis; Many States in the grip of power crisis; Massive failure in the north, Power crisis hits most States; Power problem acute in Rajasthan; People have power-cut in Delhi; City suffers from major power-cut; Karnataka, Orissa, Eastern region acute power shortage ahead; Worst ever power crisis hits Kerala industry; Severe power-cuts in Calcutta and suburbans; Power supply in Punjab erratic; Power position in Kerala precarious.

आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदया, देश के अखबारों में बिजली के संकट के किस्से रोज ही अखबारों में पढ़ने को मिलते हैं । चूंकि मैं गांव का रहने वाला हूं और पूरे हिन्दुस्तान की राष्ट्रीय अर्थ-व्यवस्था खेती पर मुनहसिर करती है । इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदया से कुछ सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं—इस सारे विद्युत संकट पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने के लिए क्या नेशनल ग्रिड स्थापित करने के संबध में सरकार विचार कर रही है ? क्या केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र में विद्युत केन्द्रों का कार्य-निष्पादन, कार्य-कुशलता प्रांतों की अपेक्षा अच्छा रहा है ? क्या ताप विद्युत केन्द्रों का कार्य निष्पादन घटिया होने के कारण देश के सामने विद्युत संकट उपस्थित है ? क्या मंत्री महोदया यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि क्यों हिन्दुस्तान में पावर कंपेसिटी यूटिलाइजेशन सब से कम हैं ? क्या सरकार पावर जनरेशन एवं पावर डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन को केन्द्रीय सेक्टर में, संघीय सूची में संविधान में शामिल करने पर विचार कर रही है जिससे पावर जनरेशन और पावर डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन आसानी से किया जा सके ? क्या सरकार प्रदेश के ऊर्जा मंत्रियों का तुरन्त सम्मेलन बुलायेगी और ऊर्जा के संकट को दूर करने के लिए ठोस एवं समयबद्ध कदम उठायेगी ? क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगी कि क्यों हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक का हिस्सा राष्ट्रीय विद्युत उत्पादन में कम होता जा रहा है । 1965-66 में 11 प्रतिशत बिजली हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक से बन रही है जब कि

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

भारत में हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक से बिजली पैदा करने की क्षमता दुनिया में सब से ज्यादा है। क्या हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक से थर्मल की अपेक्षा सस्ती बिजली पैदा की जा सकती है? यदि हां, तो हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक के लिए क्या सातवीं योजना में प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी? क्या सरकार सातवीं योजना में 22 हजार मेगावाट बिजली बनाने का प्रस्ताव कर रही है जब कि मांग 36 हजार मेगावाट की है? क्या हिन्दुस्तान में प्रति व्यक्ति बिजली का उपभोग दुनिया में सब से कम है? क्या सरकार रिन्यूएबिल सोर्स आफ इनर्जी–गोबर, सूरज, विंड, वेव को प्राथमिकता देगी? क्या सरकार हिन्दुस्तान में सोलर बेस पावर प्लान्ट वगैरा बनाने का विचार करेगी? क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान में सूरज सब से ज्यादा है और सूरज से बिजली पैदा करने का प्लांट अमरीका इत्यादि में स्थापित हो चुका है? तो क्या सरकार रिसर्च एण्ड डवलपमेंट को प्राथमिकता देते हुए रिन्यूएबिल सोर्स आफ इनर्जी को लेते हुए सोलर प्लांट की स्थापना करेगी? क्या सरकार एटम से बिजली बनाने को अगली पंचवर्षीय योजना में प्राथमिकता देगी? अमरीका में सौ हजार मेगावाट बिजली केवल एटम से बन रही है। एक लाख 50 हजार मेगावाट बिजली थर्मल से बन रही है और एक लाख मेगावाट हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक से बन रही है। हमारे देश में हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक पोटेन्शियल सब से ज्यादा है लेकिन पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में 40 वर्ष के दौरान 11 प्रतिशत बिजली का उत्पादन हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक से हो रहा है जब कि टेहरी डैम, कनाली डैम, भालू डैम और ब्रह्मपुत्र से हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक का पोटेंशियल इतना ज्यादा है कि सेठना कमेटी ने कहा है कि 50 हजार मेगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन हम हाइड्रो एलेक्ट्रिक से कर सकते हैं और जो सब से सस्ती बिजली होती है। लेकिन हम बिजली का जिस तरह से वितरण कर रहे हैं उस का हमारे कृषि उत्पादन पर भारी असर हो रहा है और हजारों हजार जो छोटे मोटे उद्योग धंधे हैं वे सिक यूनिट्स हो गये हैं। आज लाखों सिक यूनिट्स हिन्दुस्तान में हैं क्योंकि किसी ने दस, बीस लाख रुपया लगा कर कोई स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री लगा ली और उस को जब पावर का संकट हो जाता है तो उस की वह इंडस्ट्री बैठ जाती है। यह हालत पूरे देश के पैमाने पर है। गांव की स्थिति यह है कि लगता है कि वहां के किसानों को बिजली पाने की कोई गारंटी नहीं है। कहीं किसानों को बिजली 8 घंटे के हिसाब से मिलती है लेकिन वह कभी उन को दो बजे रात को मिलती है और कभी चार बजे रात को मिलती है और कभी 5 बजे शाम को मिलती है। उसके लिए कोई समय निश्चित नहीं है जब कि किसानों को अपनी खेती बोने के लिए, अपनी खेती की कटाई के लिए, उस में पानी देने के लिए निश्चित समय पर बिजली मिलनी चाहिए। गेहूं, जौ, बाजरा और गन्ने की खेती में उस की बुवाई या कटाई के समय उस की बिजली की आवश्यकता होती है। उनको बारह महीने बिजली की आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ती। फिर भी किसानों को बिजली की सप्लाई ठीक ढंग से नहीं होती। उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली का दाम डयौढ़ा कर दिया गया, पहले साढ़े 17 रुपये पर हार्स पावर थी, अब साढ़े 25 रुपये पर हार्स पावर है। खेती इंडस्ट्री बन गई है। नलकूप से पानी दिया जाता है, नहर से पम्पिंग सेट से पानी दिया जाता है, फर्टिलाइजर, पेस्टीसाइड, इनसेक्टीसाइड का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है और इस पर भी किसान को रेमूनरेटिव प्राइस नहीं मिलती। आज पूरा जीवन बिजली से जुड़ा हुआ है। एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्शन देश की आर्थिक व्यवस्था का आधार-स्तम्भ है। एग्रीकल्चर को बिजली ठीक से नहीं मिल रही है। पूरे उत्तर प्रदेश में, पूरे देश में यह संकट है। मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि वह किसानों को बिजली देने के लिये पावर मंत्रियों का एक सम्मेलन बुलाये और पूरे देश के किसानों को आठ घंटे बिजली देने के लिये तय किया जाय और साथ तय किया जाय कि सवेरे देंगे, दोपहर में देंगे या रात में देंगे। मैं ऊर्जा मंत्री श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इस संकट को दूर करने के लिये वे तुरन्त बिजली

मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन दिल्ली में बुलायें और बिजली के संकट पर सोच विचार करें और ठोस और समयबद्ध कदम उठायें। हमने 22 हजार मेगावाट बिजली उत्पादन का लक्ष्य घोषित किया हुआ है, लेकिन मांग 36 हजार मेगावाट की है। आने वाले समय में बिजली का संकट इससे भी ज्यादा होने वाला है। इसलिये मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि वह सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना का मिड-एप्रेजल करे और कम से कम 50 हजार मेगावाट बिजली का लक्ष्य सातवीं योजना के लिये रखे। जितनी मांग आपने एसेस कर रखी है उससे ज्यादा पांच वर्ष के बाद होने वाली है।

जितना ट्रांसमिशन लास हिन्दुस्तान में है उतना कहीं नहीं है। कम से कम ट्रांसमिशन लास 20-25 परसेंट है। कैपेसिटी यूटिलाइजेशन देखा जाय। वह 50 परसेंट है, कहीं 40 परसेंट है, कहीं 30 परसेंट है। हमारे जितने पावर प्लांट हैं उनमें कैपेसिटी यूटिलाइजेशन लोएस्ट है। पर-केपिटा कंजम्शन दुनिया में लोएस्ट है और जो हमारी आवश्यकता है उसके अनुकूल प्लानिंग कमीशन की योजनाएं नहीं बनती। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि बिजली की जो चोरी होती है उसको ट्रांसमिशन लास का नाम दे दिया गया है। बड़े-बड़े उद्योग धंधों और बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपतियों को बिजली बोर्ड के बड़े-बड़े अधिकारी भारी मात्रा में बिजली की सप्लाई करते हैं और उसको ट्रांसमिशन लास में दिखला देते हैं, किसानों और गांवों की बिजली को डायवर्ट कर देते हैं, बड़े-बड़े कारखानों की तरफ और बिजली किसानों को नहीं मिलती। तो मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि ट्रांसमिशन लास में, बिजली की चोरी, में जो पकड़े गये उनमें से कितने लोगों को बर्खास्त किया गया, कितने ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गई जो अनआथराइज्ड ढंग से बिजली ले रहे थे?

अंतिम बात आपसे निवेदन करनी है कि हिन्दुस्तान के बिजली के संकट से पार होने के लिये हमें एटामिक पावर से बिजली पैदा करने को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिये। हिन्दुस्तान में हाइडल से, पानी से, सौर ऊर्जा से, हवा से बिजली पैदा करने को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिये। हिन्दुस्तान में सबसे ज्यादा सूरज है। सूरज से बिजली बनाने के प्लांट अमरीका में बन चुके हैं। हमें इस संबंध में रिसर्च और डेवलपमेंट को प्राथमिकता देते हुये हवा से, पानी से और सूरज से, समुद्र की लहरों से बिजली पैदा करने को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिये। हिन्दुस्तान में सूरज इतना है कि उससे बिजली पैदा करने की टेक्नालाजी को हम खोज लें तो हम जल्दी तरक्की कर सकते हैं। बिजली तो विकास की बुनियाद है। लेनिन ने कहा था बिजली, समाजवाद और विकास जुड़े हुये हैं। बिजली से विकास और विकास से समाजवाद आता है। हिन्दुस्तान में समाजवाद का अर्थ है उत्पादन की बढ़ोतरी और वह तभी हो सकती है जब कृषि का विकास हो। कृषि का विकास तब होगा जब किसानों को बिजली मिलेगी। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार सूरज से, अटामिक पावर से बिजली बनाने के लिये रिसर्च और डेवलपमेंट पर क्या खर्च करने जा रही है और सरकार का क्या मंसूबा है। अमरीका में हजार मेगावाट बिजली एटम से बनती है और हिन्दुस्तान में 200 मेगावाट 7वीं योजना के अन्त तक बनेगी तो आप अंदाजा कर सकते हैं कि भारत 21वीं सदी में कैसे जाएगा। जिस शक्तिशाली भारत का सपना राजीव गांधी ने देखा है, उसके लिये आवश्यक है कि बिजली पर सबसे ज्यादा खर्चा हो ताकि हमारे कृषि उद्योगों का उत्पादन न घटे और हमारा ग्राम नेशनल प्रोडक्ट दिन दूनी रात चौगुनी रफ्तार से बढ़े ताकि भारत की गरीबी हटाने का हमारा सपना साकार हो सके। धन्यवाद।

SHRI A. G KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, I cannot have that much of energy and power to explain my views as my colleague, Shri Kalp Nath Rai has. Madam, Deputy Chairman I would draw the attention of the Madam Minister of State for Energy that energy or power generation is one of the basic infrastructures of development in this country.

Madam, I am very sorry to observe that this sector, which is in the State sector and the Central sector, both the management of this department and infrastructural activity is in a very bad shape.

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni]

Madam, what I am finding out is that we have made a colossal investment in this infrastructure for generation of power but the net result is that because of mismanagement various leakages have taken place and we find ourselves today in a great crisis, particularly on the south side, like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, etc., where power was at one time the pride of those States, but now they are the beggars of power, depending on the national grid of the neighbouring States.

Madam, I want to bring before the Minister firstly the difficulties of my State. While I wholeheartedly support Shri Kalp Nath Rai that there should be availability of power for the agriculture sector because this is also one of the basic necessities of this country, Madam, I find and I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Energy that in Maharashtra a survey was made, which is called twelfth annual power survey for availability of power in the State and for the Seventh and Eighth Plan a shortfall of 1254 to 4,000 m.ws. is anticipated. This is, Madam, the information given by the Chief Minister to Members of Parliament of Maharashtra.

Madam, before coming to the general questions, I am quoting some figures and I would request Madam Minister to see that this is not mismanaged and the Central Government is not only mismanaging this department from this side but it is also callous. You will, perhaps, be disturbed to know that there are seven projects from the Maharashtra State awaiting clearance. One is Ujani Project with a capacity of 2 x 500 MW. The application made was in 1978. And no Central clearance is available. Secondly, Bhusawal 'B' Project for 4 x 500 MW capacity. Application made on 30th July, 1980. No decision is taken by the Central Government or whatever authority at the Centre. Then Chandrapur Unit 7. Application was made on 27th May, 1981. No action is taken. Dabhol—Ist Stage and 2nd Stage, capacity 2 x 210 MW and 3 x 210 MW; application made on 27th July, 1981. Khaperkheda and Parli; capacity 2 x 210 MW. Applications made in October 1984 and May 1985. The last is Waste Heat Recovery Unit at Uran. Application made in May 1985; capacity 3 x 120 MW.

Madam, these proposals are pending with the Central Government. If your Ministry takes such a long time, then I would be justified in calling your Ministry a callous administrative unit which is not giving proper attention to the development of the infrastructure. To blame industry or agriculture will not be proper. Maharashtra State which has managed this year to supply power with overall 15 per cent cut is in dire necessity of clearances of these projects and I would beg of you to immediately apply your mind and reply to the State Government with information to me whether you are sanctioning or not sanctioning these projects so that it will give some direction to us as to what to do next.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Only one minute more because there are 12 speakers.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Because Madam you come from Maharashtra, you know the problem. But I am not going to embarrass you and I shall conclude.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): I welcome the sentiments.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam Minister, I hope you will basically apply your mind again. We are discussing in this very House in which you were also a part in some capacity or the other. The National Grid Scheme, as Shri Kalp Nath Rai has rightly pointed out is, not given the attention it deserves. Then, there are pilferages and transmission losses. Would you ever believe that powr charges in Maharashtra at present—about other States you might be knowing better—are between 75 and 90 paise for industry. Would any industry compete in this world for exports with so much high rates of power? As Kalp Nath Rai has rightly stated, is there a godfather either in the Central or the State Government to look to the grievances of agriculture? What time do they receive power? Once the fuse blows off, who is responsible to rectify it? It takes at least 15 days to bring the person. Is agriculture an orphan in

the country? Once the fuse goes off, why should it take 15 days to rectify it, and that also, with corrupt method? Is this the correct state of affairs with an important infrastructure like power where there is so much of corruption, whether it is for agriculture or for industry?

What are the transmission losses? He rightly pointed out. It is actually a racket in U.P. and Bihar and on the northern side but it has also entered the Southern States where corruption is the hallmark of getting assistance for power, for maintaining the power and for getting the defects rectified.

Then about plant load factor. What steps have been taken to improve the plant load factor at the State level as well as Central and National level? Madam, the State Electricity Boards are incurring huge losses. It is a drain on the Central Government as well as the State Governments. Unless these problems like the plant load factor, pilferages, transmission losses etc. are attended to on a warfooting, we will not be able to solve the problem. When I say warfooting, you should not take it lightly as is usually done.. One should be very careful.

My last point is, looking to all these aspects, in the Centre as well as in the States, it is necessary to tap the non-conventional sources of energy also; whether it is gobal gas or solar energy. (*Aime-bell rings.*) Efforts should be made to augment power supply. If they had been an imaginative Government, they would have supplied power to the rural areas mainly through solar energy, gobar gas etc. and for the population in the urban areas, through conventional sources. Some such planning is necessary.

Last but not the least, Maharashtra has identified seven projects right from 1978, which have been pending with the Central Government and these deserve your attention.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, this Calling Attention Motion concerns not only the farmers and industrialists, but the people of the country as a whole because the progress and development of industry and agriculture is dependent upon power. Unless and until we have sufficient power in this country, it is not possible for us to develop either agriculture or industry. Therefore, Government should pay urgent attention to this very important problem facing the nation as a whole. In recent times, there have been many news-items in the newspapers in regard to the power crisis and the shortage of power in the country. There are headings like this 'Acute power shortage in Haryana'. The same is the case in regard to other States also. There is another heading which says 'People without power'. This is of concern not only, particularly, to the farmers and small industrialists, but to the general public as well. In this connection, I would like to know, what is the region-wise shortage of power, in the case of Northern Region, Southern Region and so on? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the total shortfall, taking the country as a whole?

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister—I will not go into the details—to the problem facing the Southern Region, specially Andhra Pradesh. Madam, we have drawn the attention of the Government of India on more than one occasion to the need for setting up thermal power plants in Andhra Pradesh, in the district Khammam which is suitable for the location of thermal power plants. In 1975, the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board at the instance of the State Government investigated and selected a site suitable from every point of view at Manuguru near Bhadrachalam in the Singareni coal-field area, for setting up a pithead super thermal power station with an ultimate capacity of 2,000 MW. This has been pending for a long time. We have made several representations. Even the State Chief Minister, Shri N. T. Rama Rao has written a letter to the Central Government drawing the attention of the Central Government to the urgency of setting up this thermal power station. (*Time-bell rings*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: We get only two Call Attentions per week, please give at least 10 minutes for each Member.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: With regard to the foregoing demands in the southern region, will the Central Government consider them seriously and meet the shortage of power?

Secondly, Madam, we have also proposed a thermal power station at Rayalaseema. The Planning Commission has already finalised the list of thermal power stations for coal linkage during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans. Coal-linkage thermal power station in the Rayalaseema region was not included in either of the two lists. Will the Government seriously consider this issue because Rayalaseema area is a backward area. This area suffers from drought every-year. Even the Special Linkage Committee, that has been set up, is also in favour of setting up this thermal power station in Rayalaseema. In view of the shortage of power in the country, installation of thermal power stations at Mangrur in Khamman district and in Rayalaseema is very essential. If these stations are set up, there will be power not only for the southern region, but for the neighbouring States also. So, I would like to know whether the Government will give immediate consideration for the establishment of these two thermal power stations.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already taken more than 7 minutes.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, everybody should be allowed at least ten minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: We are given only two Call Attentions in a week. At least give ten minutes to each member.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have to complete it byf 1.30 p.m.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: They are three or four persons more.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, I have got a list here. Should I read it out for you?

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: They are not present.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Is the Government aware of the problems and demands of the agriculturists, farmers and the people engaged in industry? There is immediate need for sufficient supply of power to run agriculture and industry on a sound footing, so that the country could progress and prosper.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, आज बिजली देश के आर्थिक विकास के लिये सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता मानी जाती है । जितनी बिजली की देश को आवश्यकता है उतना बिजली का उत्पादन नहीं और जितनी पैदा होती है उसका ठीक से ट्रांसमिशन नहीं और उसका ठीक से डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन नहीं, यह सबसे बड़ी शिकायत की बात है। हमारे देश में माननीया, संसार के हर देश से अधिक लाइन लासिज, ट्रांसमिशन लासिज और डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन लासिज होते हैं और ये प्रतिवर्ष बढ़ते जाते हैं । इसका क्या कारण है इसका कारण केवल यह है कि विद्युत विभाग के अधिकारी बड़े उद्योगपतियों से मिलकर इसकी चोरी कराते हैं और कोई उसकी ठीक चैकिंग नहीं करता । अगर चैकिंग की जाती है तो वह किसानों के खेतों पर जाकर कि पांच हार्स पावर का है तो साढ़े सात का तो नहीं लगाया है, साढ़े सात का है तो दस हार्स पावर का तो नहीं लगा रखा है । इस बात को केवल चेक किया जाता है और जिन लोगों ने एक हजार हार्स पावर बड़े-बड़े करखानों में लगा रखा है उसे कोई चेक नही करता । मैंने उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मन्त्रियों से कई बार यह सुझाव दिया अगर आप मेरी इस बात को स्वीकार करलें कि एट रेंडम हर महीने बड़े-बड़े उद्योगों को अपने इनफोर्समेंट स्कवेड से चेक करवा दिया करें तो सैकड़ों करोड़ों रुपये की आमदनी बिजली विभाग से आपको मिलेगी । एक सुपरिंटेंडिंग इन्जीनियर मुझे कह रहा था कि मैं एक अकेले डिवीजन से एक करोड़ रुपये की आमदनी एक्सट्रा दिला सकता हूं परन्तु हलत यह है कि थैफ्ट को रोकने के लिए आपने कहा कि कुछ कड़ा कानून बना लिया है लेकिन यह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि आप उसका इम्पलीमेंटेशन किस प्रकार से करते हैं और क्या एक्शन लेते हैं। अभी आपने बताया कि हमने 4125 गांवों को विद्युत दी है । गांवों का विद्युतीकरण

तो आपने किया लेकिन विद्युत भी आपने दी या नहीं, कागज पर आपने विद्युतीकरण कर दिया मैं इसे स्वीकार करता हूं। किसान सारा दिन खेत में काम कर के अपने घर आता है, जब अन्धेरा हो जाता है तो बिजली चली जाती है। बिजली न होने के कारण वह सो जाता है तो रात को उसके सोने के बाद बिजली आ जाती है और सारी रात वह बिजली जलाती है तो इससे क्या फायदा हुआ ऐसे विद्युतीकरण का ? आपने कहा कि हमने एक लाख ब्यालीस हजार पम्पसेट्स को बिजली दी है। आप कितनी बिजली पम्प सेट्स को देते हैं ? मैं उत्तर प्रदेश से आता हूं। मुझे याद है तीन साल के अन्दर आपने मिनिमम चार्जेज 15 रुपये से 30 रुपये प्रति हार्स पावर कर दिये हैं। एक समय था जब कृषि को कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए बिजली सबसिडाइज्ड रेट पर दी जाती थी लेकिन आज तीन साल के अन्दर 15 रुपये हार्स पावर से बढ़ा कर 30 रुपये हार्स पावर कर दिया। काहे के लिए बढ़ाया गया है, फिर भी बिजली विभाग को लास हो रहा है। यह लास चोरियों के कारण हो रहा है, बदइन्तजामी से हो रहा है, इनएफिशियेंट प्रशासन से हो रहा है इसे रोकने की कोशिश की जानी चाहिए न कि लोगों के ऊपर चार्जेज बढ़ा कर के आप अपनी कमियों को पूरा करें। आपकी फंक्शनिंग एफिशियेंट हो तब आप बढाएं तो बात समझ में आ सकती है लेकिन लासेज जितने भी है यह सारे आपकी इनएफिशियेंट फंक्शनिंग पर मुनहसिर हैं। आपकी इस्टाल्ड केपेसिटी कितनी है ? कितनी पावर आप जेनरेट करते हैं और जेनरेट हो कर के ट्रांसमिशन के जरिये से कितनी पावर का वितरण उपभोगताओं को होता है। जितनी आपकी इंस्टालड केपेसिटी है उतनी पावर उपभोगता के पास नहीं पहुंच रही है, यह आपके सामने एक चेलेंज है। आप तीन प्रकार से बिजली बनाते हैं। सब से बड़ी आप बनाते हैं थर्मल पावर से, फिर हाईडल पावर से और फिर आप एटोमिक पावर पैदा करते हैं। जितने आपके एटोमिक पावर प्लांट्स हैं वे सब खराब पड़े हुए हैं। आम तौर पर कोटा राजस्थान में पावर प्लांट खराब रहता है। आज ही हाउस में सप्लीमेंटरीज का उत्तर दिया जा रहा था कि वह खराब है, वह कनाडा में बना है वह ठीक फंक्शन नहीं कर रहा है उसे बन्द किया है। नरोरा का पावर स्टेशन उत्तर प्रदेश में बुलंदशहर जिले में 1980 में कम्पलीट हो जाना चाहिये था अब 1986 समाप्त होने को है अभी तक उसके कम्पलीशन की कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं है। आप कहते हैं कि जल्दी से इसे कर रहे हैं। ट्रांसमिशन लासेज को घटाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। मुझे तो कहीं नहीं नजर पड़ता कि जहां ट्रांसमिशन लासेज बढ़ रहे हैं उनको घटाने की क्या कोशिश हुई। आप चार्जेज जरूर बढ़ाते चले जा रहे हैं जिससे बिजली बोर्ड का नुक्सान घट जाए लेकिन उपभोक्ताओं पर इसका असर पड़ता है। किसानों पर मिनिमम चार्जेज लगाते हैं लेकिन मिनिमम चार्जेज तो आपने लगा ही दिये है लेकिन मिनिमम बिजली की सप्लाई की गारंटी भी आपने ली है क्या ? कभी दो घंटे मिलती है लेकिन मिनिमम चार्जेज देने पड़ेंगे 30 रुपये प्रति हार्स पावर के हिसाब से लेकिन मिनिमम बिजली सप्लाई की कोई गारंटी नहीं है। माननीय मन्त्री जी उत्तर दें कि जब आप मिनिमम चार्जेज लगाते हैं तो क्या मिनिमम बिजली की सप्लाई की गारंटी देंगे ? तो क्या आप मिनिमम सप्लाई भी उसको गारंटी करेंगे ? अगर नहीं कर सकते, तो क्या प्रापोर्शनेटली घटायेंगे ?

क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह जानकारी है कि किसान का ट्रांसफार्मर जल जाता है, बगैर रुपये दिये ट्रांसफार्मर नहीं मिलता, दो-दो महीने तक ट्रांसफार्मर भी नहीं और बिजली के चार्जेज भी भेजे जा रहे हैं। बताइये ट्रांसफार्मर चल नहीं रहा है, बिजली नहीं गई, फसल बर्बाद हो गई, लेकिन बिजली के चार्जेज लगातार उन लोगों पर भेजे जा रहे हैं। यह बहुत अनुचित बात है।

माननीय, एक बात कह कर मैं समाप्त करूंगा। पश्चिम उत्तर प्रदेश जहां से मैं आता हूं, मेरे पास लोगों की शिकायतें आई कि अभी तक पलेवा गेंहु के लिए

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा

नहीं हुआ। तो कब गेंहूं के लिए वह पलेवा करेगा और कब फिर वह गेंहूं बोएगा ? और पलेवा क्यों नहीं हुआ, क्यों कि बिजली अवेलेबल नहीं।

तो इसलिए मैं माननीया, आपकी आज्ञा से माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि किसानों को बिजली समय पर उपलब्ध कराने की, उद्योगों को समय पर उपलब्ध कराने की कोशिश करें और जितनी लक्जरी के लिए बिजली आप देते हैं बड़े शहरों में, चाहे दिल्ली है, लखनऊ है, कानपुर है, इलाहाबाद है, बम्बई है, कहीं भी लक्जरी के लिए एक यूनिट भी अपकी बिजली न जाए। जो लक्जरी में रहना चाहते हैं, वह अपने आप खुद बिजली को जेनरेट करें और जितनी बिजली आपकी है, केवल उद्योग और एग्रीकल्चर के लिए दें।

एक बात और कह कर मैं समाप्त करता हूं और वह यह है माननीया, मुझे खुशी है कि गैस के ऊपर आधारित पावर स्टेशन बनायेंगे। जहां गैस निकलती है, वहीं पर बनायेंगे। सारे हिन्दुस्तान में थर्मल स्टेशंस बना दिये पर वहां कोयला नहीं है।

जब नेशनल ग्रिड बनाने का इरादा रखते हैं, तो कोल हैड्स पर आप थर्मल स्टेशंस बनायें। ट्रांसमिशन का खर्चा चाहे कुछ बढ़े, लेकिन जेनरेशन का खर्चा कम होगा और निश्चित कोल उनको मिलता रहेगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ यह कहकर समाप्त करता हूं कि माननीया, इस बदकिस्मत किसान को अव्वल तो बिजली कम मिलती है और जो बिजली मिली, क्योंकि वह अनपढ़ है, उसकी फीडर को काट दिया और जिन लोगों ने पैसे दे दिये उद्योगपतियों ने, बिजली की सप्लाई फिर उद्योगों की तरफ कर देते हैं।

तो माननीय मंत्री जी से देश भर के लिये मैं प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूं कि गरीबों को, अनपढ़ को और एग्रीकलचर के लिये जो बिजली दें, जितनी गारन्टी दें, उतनी बिजली की सप्लाई होनी चाहिये, जिससे कि देश की प्रोडक्शन बढ़े और देश में खुशहाली आये।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam Deputy Chairman, due to a different power crisis in political circles, some of the heavyweights have lost their power in Delhi but, of course, I am coming to the power crisis which is crushing the backbone of our economy. Because the time at my disposal is very short, I shall confine myself to the power problem in Tamil Nadu.

Madam, according to the estimates incorporated in the 12th Power Survey, the peak demand for power in Tamil Nadu by the end of the Seventh Plan will be about 4,142 megawatts. In the first fortnight of February 1986, the peak availability in Tamil Nadu was about 2,042 megawatts against the peak demand of 2,340 megawatts. That shows the gap. According to another survey, even after all the schemes taken up by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board in the Seventh Plan begin operations, the gap between demand for and availability of power is estimated to be about 5,000 megawatts by the year 2000. And according to a statement in reply to my Unstarred Question of 3rd March, 1986,, the Centsal Government has stated the projects pending approval in the Planning Commission. At that time the North Madras Thermal Project has been mentioned but it has now been cleared. The other project is the Gas Turbine Project at Basin Bridge and it is pending since 1984. The projects under appraisal in the Central Electricity Authority are: (1) Bhavani Kattalai (pending since 1984), (2) Pykara-final stage (pending since 1982), (3) Paralayar (pending since 1984), (4) Sathanur DPH (pending since 1985) and (5) Neyveli 3rd TPS-Central Sector (pending since 1985). These projects are under appraisal. I would like to urge upon the Central Government to give instructions to the Central Electricity Authority to expedite and clear these projects.

Even now 20 per cent power-cut exists in Tamil Nadu, mostly due to the ineffective handling by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Even when the hydel reservoirs were full and there was no need to shut down the hydel power station, the Chairman of the Electricity Board has issued instructions to shut down the hydel power station. Then the Central Government intervened. They instructed not to go on like this. Then only was that lifted.

Madam Deputy Chairman, even the High Court Bench of Madras, comprising of Chief Justice Chandurkar and Justice Srinivasan, has passed strong strictures against the functiong of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and its Chairman. I quote from October 29th, 1986 "HINDU":

> "We are unable to contain ourselves and refrain from making an observation that the conduct of the Chairman of the Electricity Board is unbecoming of the high post which he is holding. It is also evident from records that the members of the Board, including the Government representatives, are not carrying out their responsibilities in a proper manner, to say the least. They do not even seem to be alive to their duties.
>
> We are left with the impression that all the members of the Board do not care to apply their minds to the subjects which arise for consideration by them, and they simply act according to the wishes of the Chairman and affix their signatures whenever and wherever they are required."

This was the observation, stricture passed by the Chief Justice Chandurkar and Justice Srinivasan. Because of the ineffective handling, as I said just now, by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, and particularly the attitude of the Chairman, the people of Tamil Nadu subjected to such harassment. Particularly the people in the agriculutral sector are the worst sufferers every year.

Again, Sir, I think it is very proper on my part to draw the attention of the House because it may lead to a privilege notice, because recently a most undemocratic circular has been sent by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Chairman, warning the Electricity Board employees that disciplinary action would be taken against them if their grievances were taken up in the Assembly or Parliament by MLAs. or MPs. following representations to legislators. This has never happened so far. Even the CPI(M) has issued a notice of privilege in the Tamil Nadu Assembly against this circular as being anti-democratic and in fact coming in the way of performing their duties as MLAs. So also is the case of MPs. Even MPs belonging to the ruling party in Tamil Nadu will not be permitted, according to the circular. Even for general purposes the trade unions or the employees could not approach any Member of Parliamnet or MLA like that. Thit is very serious. This is for MPs also. Even for public matter they should not approach either MLAs or MPs. This is the circular. If they do so, then, disciplinary action will be taken against these employees. This affects our duties and our responsibilities also. This is a matter on which I could move a privilege motion. I would request the Minister to look into this because it affects our responsibility also. So, it has become a complete mess in Tamil Nadu due to the dictatorial and partisan attitude of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Chairman.

Madam Deputy Chairman, there is a need, there is a demand for an atomic power plant at Kudangulam. That is the southern most part of our country. The site is ready and the proposal I think, is under consideration of the Government. I would request the Government to expedite this also and take a positive decision. According to a reply I got for my Unstarrpd Question of 25-11-1985, in the annexure were provided the name of sanctioned hydro-power projects above 5 MW included in the Seventh Plan which are behind their original commissioning schedule and their Plan outlays. I will just quote the names given in the case of Tamil Nadu. They are: Servalar, Kadamparai, Lower Metutr, Kundah, Vagai and Lower Bhavani Therefore, I would request the Central Government to clear the projects which are pending and also the

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

one more project which has been sent by the Tamil Nadu Governmnet for your perusal. The Tamil Nadu Government has agreed in principle to let a consortium of 12 leading industrial houses to join it in Rs. 356 crore project to set up two more generating units at the Tuticorin thermal power station. The State Government has written to the Centre seeking clearance for the joint sector project which will comprise the third phase in the development of the Tuticorin station. There are three units of 210 MW each in operation now at the plant and in the second phase two additional units are being constructed by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Therefore, I would request the Minister to kindly look into these projects which has been recently sent to the Central Governmnet and take action. And since the Tamil Nadu Government is very much friendly with you you can give them instructions also. If you give strictures, one type of effect is that even the Ministers reesign, but this all powerful man, who is very close to the high-ups and who is very close to the highest authority in the State, he is doing all sorts of things.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The time at my disposal is very short. Therefore, I will confine myself to two or three aspects. There is no denying the fact that in the modern world there is no item more important than electricity, be it for residential purposes, agricultural purposes or industrial purposes. But my submission is that there is a serious defect in our planning. In most of the States in our country, barring one or two States, there is a serious shortage in production of electricity compared to the requirements. In Southern States, except Andhra Pradesh, all other States—Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka,—have power production which falls very short of their requirements. Kerala and Karnataka used to be surplus States a few years back. Today they have to go begging running after other States to lend them or supply them electricity. One reason is that some States have concentrated too much on hydel power and have totally ignored thermal and other sources. For example, Kerala and Karnataka appear to be the worst affected. Kerela, it appears, had the last two years as its worst years of drought for the last 86 years. There was no rain. Consequently, the reservoirs went dry and the production of hydel power went low. They had to ask Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for the supply of power.

The reason why we have tightened up recently and have amended the Electricity Act providing stringent punishment for thefts is that in our country the transmission losses on average come to 21 per cent. Compared to the transmission losses in other countries, in the world, our losses are double. The main reasons for that are thefts and mal-practices. In States like Kashmir and Bihar the transmission loss has gone up to 32 to 33 per cent.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: More than that.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: Yes, more than that. So, barring the normal loss of 9-10 per cent, the rest is attributable to mal-practices. It was estimated that one per cent of the loss of current in transmission, whatever reason it be, would cost about Rs. 80 crores. So the theft of energy alone accounts for nearly Rs. 1,000 crores in our country. Small thefts we are straining ourselves and then trying to concentrate on that. The energy worth of Rs. 1,000 crores is being stolen every year and we are not bothered very much. Who is that stealing the energy? They are rich people and big industrialists, but not a small agriculturist. A small agriculturist cannot steal at all particularly in a State like Andhra Pradesh. When Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy was the Chief Minister, he introduced a scheme under whcih a fixed sum would be paid by an agriculturist at the rate of Rs. 50 per horse power of the motor. If you have got 10 horse power Motor you have to pay Rs. 500 a year and be done with that. There is no bill. There is no receipt at all. So the question of stealing the energy in the agricultural sector does not arise. Some time back two industrialists were caught in Andhra Pradesh and the current which they have stolen estimated for one year was Rs. 1,20.00,000. This is how it should be plugged.

1.00 P.M.

In the planning as I said at the outset there seems to be a lot of bungling. The Energy Ministry wanted Rs. 67,500 crores to be allotted in the Seventh Five Year Plan. As against the Energy Ministry's demand of Rs. 67,500 crores, the Planning Commission has reduced it to half. That means the Energy Ministry proposed to add 30,000 MW in the Seventh Five Year Plan period at a cost of Rs. 67,500 crores. But when it is cut to half what does it mean? The Planning Commission wants only 15,000 MW to be added in the Seventh Five Year Plan. This is a colossal blunder, because when sufficient energy is not there, industries cannot progress, agricultural production cannot go up. We cannot feed our teeming millions. We sannot solve unemployment problem unless we industrialise the country very fast. So this is the serious thing I want to point out that the Planning Commission itself is bungling in this respect.

One more thing I want to mention with your permission. We should concentrate on non-conventional sources of energy. They are listed as 18 in number. These non-conventional sources of energy are mostly renewable. For example, the wind power, the tidal power, the solar thermal power, the solar photo voltic power, urban waste, etc. From urban waste it was estimated by a Danish company Volam that in Bombay city itself they can have three plants producing 14 MW of current through each plant. So we can convert this waste into a valuable product to produce electricity. So this has to be concentrated upon. In tidal power I understand in Gulf of Kutch a project for producing 600 MW is contemplated and it should be pursued only to meet this power shortage. With the wind power one unit can produce 5 KW to 10 KW. of power. The Gujarat State Electricity Board also on an experimental basis has installed one project to produce energy through wind power and it has become very successful according to my information. So this should be pursued.

One more suggestion, I would like to make. Take for example Andhra Pradesh, current is used by thousands of farmers. The total power that farmers use is not equal to the power consumed by one factory, Ferro Alloys factory in Garvidi. Its consumption is 45 MW. They were charged at the rate of 4 to 5 naye paise per unit. This was I am spaking about some ten years back. Now, they might have increased it. One naye paise was increased for them, then, they went to the High Court and Supreme Court fighting that you cannot increase from 5 naye paise to 6 naye paise. But from these poor farmers who are producing valuable food and spending their day and night on the fields, you are charging exorbitant fee. In Andhra Pradesh, at least the charges are reasonable. In other parts of the country also it should be followed that the current is supplied to the agriculturists for the production of foodgrains at a nominal rate. Because, we are fixing prices for agricultural products like sugarcane and paddy or wheat at a very low price keeping in mind the consumer. So why should we not keep in mind the consumer of electricity also, namely, the agriculturists? What is their capacity? That should be taken into account and the price should be pegged down. It should be a nominal charge that should be collected from the agriculturist.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab): Madam Deputy Chairman, in 1961 when I was attending the National Defence College, from the Planning Commission the Member looking after power, came to us and told us that the planning for power was so weak that in the next ten years' time there will be a famine for power. I think he was totally right. There is no doubt that in the last 25 years we have always been trying to catch up for inadequate planning in the first stage. What adds to that problem is that the working of the various power plants that have been put up—thermal, atomic, and others—is inefficient. As a result the power famine is even worse than it should be, because of our inefficiency in running them. Add to that the State Electricity Board. There is no duobt in my mind that in most States the State Electricity Boards are highly corrupt. As a result the power generation and its distribution suffers badly. My first recommendation would be that the State Electricity Board should be deploticised. Many of the chairmen of two State Electricity Boards are political appointments, and

[Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora]

they may or may not have knowledge, the technical knowledge, about running these Boards. Unless that is done, I am afraid the State Electricity Board will continue to lose money, to waste its resources, and, as a result our shortage will continue.

I would now like to refer to certain problems which are particular to my State, Punjab. Earlier on this morning a mention was made about the atomic power plant for Punjab, and the Minister said that Punjab is one of the States which is being considered. It will be interesting to know that the Site Board visited Punjab in 1982 where it was told that all the relevant requirements of water, area and land could be met. So far no decision has been taken. You are aware of the fact that Punjab has been starved of industry from the very beginning. And until such time that additional resources are provided, that industry cannot be installed. It is, therefore, necessary that these decisions are taken expeditiously and are not delayed unnecessarily. Now there is one other point I would like to mention about Punjab and that is that Punjab is on the national grid and it is supposed to get in due course something like 571 MW from Singrauli and Baira Siul. What we are getting today is, instead of the authorised amount, only thirteen per cent. It is not thirty per cent, mind you, but it is thirteen per cent, 'one three'. Now, Madam, if the National Power Grid and the Centre are unable to provide what is due to a State, it will lose all confidence in the Central Grid. And, Madam, in spite of the various efforts that have been made during the President's Rule and afterwards and by the present Government...(Time *bell rings*)... I am afraid the situation continues to be unsatisfactory.

There is another point also. The Delhi Electric Supply Undertakings gets power from Bhakra also whenever it runs short of power. When the DESU can get what it wants from U.P., it should really cut down its requirements from Bhakra, especially during the time when power is required for sowing and for harvesting by the farmers, and when it may be able to meet part of the requirements only. (Time bell rings.) I think that the Centre's inability to ensure that the States where the power plants are located do not take a lion's share of the power which is not allocated to them and that they send the required amount to the other States which are dependent on them is going to have a deletrious effect.

Lastly, I would like to mention one thing which has been mentioned earlier also and it is the problem of loss of power in transit. There is no doubt about it and most of it is due to theft only. It is stolen. Unless foolproof arrangements are made to see that these losses do not occur, power shortage will continue to exist and, in fact, it can get worse and confidence in the Government to run a vital industry of this nature would be lost and that would be a very bad consequence. Thank you, very much, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): I am sorry, Madam, I want to point out one thing. The practice here with regard to Calling-Attention Motions is slightly different from the one regarding statements made by the Ministers on which we ask for clarifications. In the present case, you have to go through the list and you tried to go through it. I saw Mr. Matto being present here, but he was not called. I do not know whether he wanted to speak or not. Afterwards, it should be party-wise.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): No: it is party-wise only.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: No. That is in the case of clarifications on the statements by Ministers only. Here it is different.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It is the right of the Deputy Chairman.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is also according to the point of time.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: That is what I am referring to. If the printed list is to be gone through the convention

of the House is that it should be party-wise, but not so in the case of statements by Ministers where it is strictly according to the priority of names.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is also according to priority and I am going only on the basis of priority.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Our convention regarding Calling-Attention Motion is that after exhausting the list, it goes party-wise only.

SHRI KLPNATH RAI: Yes.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I am only trying to draw your attention to this, Madam. After exhausting the list, it should be party-wise only.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I understand it. The point is that after exhausting the list, various Members who have given their names have to be called and it is for the Chair to call them, whoever the Chair wants.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: No no. I am referring to a custom in the House which is party-wise.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. It is according to the procedure only that I am calling the Members. Now, Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Madam Deputy Chairman, I will be very brief and I will ask only specific questions. My first clarification relates to paragraph 2 of the hon. Minister's statement wherein the States which have a power shortage of over 10 per cent are listed. I am sure there is something wrong in it because I know that in the year 1985-86, Rajasthan had a power cut exceeding 70 per cent on an average. In 1985-86, Rajasthan had a power cut exceeding 70 per cent. This statement today is for the period April to October 1986. Rajasthan is not even there in the list where power shortage is over 10 per cent. I am sure this requires a correction. We suffer the consequences of it.

Secondly, I will seek a clarification about hydel power. A number of members have already mentioned it. Is it correct that given the potential for hydel power in the country, which is 40 per cent of the total, the Seventh Plan now envisages only 30 per cent. Further that schemes for generating power to the extent of nearabout 4758 MW, sanctioned as long ago as 1972 are still languishing? Is that correct? If they are languishing, why? Is it correct that the Central Electricity Commission has already cleared additional schemes for generating 4809 MW? What then is their fate?

About transmission and what is called Plant Load Factor (PLF), I would like to share a thought with the hon. Minister and would like her comments on it. Am I correct in assuming that a 10 per cent improvement in Plant Load Factor (PLF) will result in a saving to the nation of 4000 crores? If this is correct, then what are you going to do in respect of the all-India average of PLF which is currently languishing at somewhere between 40 to 45 per cent? You might say that your Central plants are a bit higher, but the all-India average of PLF is languishing between 40 to 45 per cent. A 10 per cent improvemnet in that PLF will save the nation 4000 crores. Please comment.

This is the final question and I am concluding with it. To my mind, there is one very serious threat facing the country in the power field and our economy. Here I have just to take half a minute. The Working Group of the Planning Commission in fact recommended something like 65300 crores for the Seventh Plan period. That was the recommendation. I find that the allocation is just about half of it at around Rs. 34273 crores. At this level of allocation and given that you will spend is efficiently effectively, without corruption and without time delays—not taking all these factors into account—at this level of allocation we will still be around 7000 MW less. We will have a power gap of around 7000 MW. Here I find a difficulty. This reduction has been calculated on the basis of cutting the targets of the various components of the industrial sector, assumption being thaet that in turn will rdeuce the demand. How does your Ministry hope to cover this much gap? By better performance of power plants? Given the existing PLF at, say, a maximum of 45

[Shri Jaswant Singh].

per cent, you are alloting Rs. 800 crores to transmission. Eight thousand crores are being allotted to transmission above. Here again I am faced with a difficulty. Eight thousand crores out of an allocation of 33 and odd thousand crores are being allotted to transmission, when is a pilor admission of lower PLF—not an enhanced PLF, but a lower PLF. Please illuminate us. Please elucidate it.

Finally, I do believe that a breakthrough can be achieved in this field if you permit the private sector to come into power production provided the State Electricity Boards take on the responsibility of transmission. Now, it is my understanding that for the last two or three years many power projects from the private sector are languishing for clearance. Would the Minister please clarify that as well?

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairman, even though my State of Kerala is facing a very serious power crisis, I do not want to confine to my State alone because this is a national problem being faced by a majority of the States in this country.

Madam, it was estimated that the requirement of energy of the country by the end of 2,000 AD is to the tune of some 1.64 lakh megawatts. It was the assessment made by the Advisory Board of Energy (ABE) headed by Mr. K. C. Pant. According to them, by March 1985, our capacity of energy production was to the tune of 42,755 megawatts. And an additional capacity of 22,245 megawatts has been provided for the Seventh Plan. It means that by 1990 our capacity of energy production will be nearly 65,000 megawatts against our requirement of some 1.64 lakh megawatts. So, it is very clear that there will be a gap of one lakh megawatts by the next ten years. To bridge this gap, we have to generate power on an average of 10,000 MW per year for the next ten years. But Madam, what has been our performance against this requirement for the last ten years? I am sorry to note that our average production was 1,900 MW per year for the last ten years. Even in the 4,000 MW per year. Even if this target Seventh Plan, the rate envisaged is only will be achieved, even after the fulfilment of our target in the Seventh Plan, the gap will be 6,000 to 7,000 MW per year. How to overcome this serious situation? Of course, I do agree that financial constraints are there, But my question is how are we utilising even the funds that are at our disposal. For example, Madam, how much time this Ministry have wasted to take a decision on how the funds of the Power Financing Corporation are to be utilised? The amount allotted for this Corporation was nearly Rs. 500 crores or something like that. Even then, there was so much of controversy between different Departments, and the Power Ministry has wasted so much of time to take a decision on this point of how to utilise this meagre amount when has been allotted to this Power Financing Corporation.

Madam, another example is that of Kolaghat second stage in West Bengal. Will the Minister explain to the House as to why the Industrial Development Bank of India refused to advance money for this project? It is only because of the Energy Ministry's inability to take an appropriate decision at the appropriate time. Almost all the States, as I have already stated, are facing this energy problem. But, Madam, my State of Kerala, due to the failure of monsoon for the last two years, is facing a very serious problem. We are completely dependent on hydro-electric projects. There is the failure of the monsoon; there is no alternative source, now, we have to think of an alternative source of energy.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Atomic energy.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: About the atomic power or the thermal plants, I cannot say. That is for the scientists to say whether it will be feasible for an atomic plant in a State like Kerala which is thickly populated. And so many other things are there. Madam, there is another point and that is that there are sufficient hydel resources in Kerala to tap. If I am correct, there are at least half a dozen project reports which are still pending

either with the Ministry or with the Planning Commission for the last more than six to nine years. I would request the Minister to look into these issues and find out a solution to utilise the maximum of the hydel resources. As you know, Madam, hydel power generation is cheap also when compared to atomic energy or thermal power or something like that. So, we have to utilise our maximum natural resources, i.e., hydel power for the generation of electricity. And, of course, there are still resources in Kerala and they are to be tapped. I do hope that the Minister will look into all these things. (*Time bell rings*).

Madam, my specific question is that relating to the bridging of this gap in the case of national energy production, what is a national project and what is the national policy of the Government to bridge this gap?

With these words, Madam I conclude. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Ram Chandra Vikal.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति, महोदया, मैं आपका आभारी हूं जो आपने बिजली संकट ,जो किसानों से संबंधित है, पर मुझे भी बोलने का समय दिया । महोदया, आंकड़े अभी हमारे श्री कल्पनाथ राय और श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा जी तथा अन्य सदस्यों ने बहुत दे दिये हैं । इसलिये इस संबंध में मैं कुछ मोटी-मोटी बातें संक्षेप में बताना चाहता हूं ।

यह बात सही है कि देश की बढ़ती हुई आबादी और देश में बढ़ती हुई आवश्यकताओं को देखते हुए बिजली की बढ़ोत्तरी होना बहुत जरूरी है । इस संबंध में हमारी बहुत सी योजनायें अधूरी पड़ी हैं । उनको पूरा करने के लिये हमें जल्दी करनी चाहिये । मैं जानता हूं कि अनेक योजनायें जैसे टिहरी बांध हमारे यहां बन रहा है, उससे बिजली बनायी जायेंगी, लेकिन यह योजना अभी तक अधूरी पड़ी है। नर्मदा योजना है, वह भी अधूरी पड़ी है । ऐसी देश-व्यापी योजनायें, जो हमारी अधूरी पड़ी हुई हैं, उनको जल्दी पूरा कराया जाये और इन योजनाओं की तरफ केन्द्र और राज्य सरकारों को ध्यान देना चाहिये । जो राज्य सरकारें हैं, उनको आदेश दिया जा सकता है कि वे इन योजनाओं को जल्दी से जल्दी पूरा करायें ।

दूसरी जो बात है, आपने भी बताया कि यह संकट केरल में है, कर्नाटक में है, बिहार , यू०पी० और हरियाणा, इन सभी राज्यों में बिजली का संकट है। लेकिन जो हमारे किसान हैं, उनके साथ सौतेला व्यवहार होता है । होता यह है कि उनको बिजली तो मंजूर पर दी जाती है, वह लेकिन उनको मिल नहीं पाती और उन पर जो टैक्स है, वह बराबर वसूल होता रहता है, चाहे ट्यूब-वैल पर बिजली हो या न हो, चाहे उसकी मशीनरी को बिजली मिले या न मिले । इस ओर सुधार हो सकता है कि अगर उनको बिजली प्राप्त नहीं कराई जाती तो उनसे यह टैक्स न लिया जाये। होता यह है कि इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के जो अधिकारी और कर्मचारी हैं, घाटा उनके खर्चों के कारण होता है, लेकिन वह डाल दिया जाता है, छोटे किसानों पर, गरीब किसानों पर। जब इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के अधिकारियों के खर्चे बढ़ते चले जायेंगे, तो किसानों पर, गरीबों पर, बिजली के उपभोक्ताओं पर खर्चे बढ़ते ही चले जायेंगे । इसमें किफायत करने की जरूरत है । थोड़ी-थोड़ी किफायत तो हर जगह हो सकती है। इस देश में बिजली का जो संकट है, उसको दूर करने के लिये सरकारों को कुछ सख्त कदम भी उठाने चाहियें । आप देखिये कि लोग शादियों में कितनी बिजली खर्च कर रहे हैं, ये बड़े-बड़े लोग...

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : पंच-सितारा होटलों में ।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल बिजली पर कुछ पाबन्दियां सरकार को लगा

[श्री राम चन्द्र विकल]

देनी चाहियें। गांवों में मजबूर होकर लोग सुबह बारात बुलाते हैं और शाम को बिदा कर देते हैं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are four or five more speakers and if each one of you take four-four minutes, then it will be possible to accommodate you now. Otherwise we have to adjourn for lunch as it already 1.30.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Let Mr. Vikal conclude, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If they take four-four minutes, then one more hon. Membtr could also be accommodated.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : इनको बोल लेने दीजिये।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : यह किसानों का मामला है, इस पर जरा लम्बी चौड़ी बहस होने दीजिये।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : यह किसानों की बात है और किसानों की बात पर क्या बहस नहीं होगी ?

उपसभापति : यह मैं जानती हूं और इसलिये विकल साहब को बोलने के लिये प्रायरिटी दी।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : बहुत अच्छा किया।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : बिजली की किफायत की जा सकती है। अनावश्यक रूप से, जो लोग इसे विलासिता की चीजों पर खर्च करते हैं, इस पर सरकार को सख्त कदम उठाने चाहियें। दूसरा मैं यह कहता हूं कि सूरज से बिजली बनाने की बात कही जा सकती है। यह बननी चाहिये और बन भी रही है।

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : कहां बन रही है ?

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : लेकिन सूरज होते हुए बिजली का खर्चा जो हम कर रहे हैं, उसको तो बचाया जा सकता है। यह पर्दे जो लगाये जाते हैं, दिन में, अन्धेरा कर के दफ्तर चलते हैं या छुट्टी के टाइम में बिजली के पंखे चलते रहते हैं, रोशनी जलती रहती है। मैं इस संबंध में लोक सभा का उदाहरण दे सकता हूं। इसके लिये जो अधिकारी और कर्मचारी दफ्तरों में बैठते हैं, उनको भी ख्याल रखना चाहिये। मैं एक दफा बोल रहा था जब पंत जी थोड़े दिन बिजली मन्त्री थे, तो उन्होंने अपने दफ्तर के पर्दे हटवा दिये और जो रोशनी सूरज से आती थी, उससे उन्होंने काम लिया, तो पहले से अच्छा काम चला। इस सदन में अन्धेरा होता है, मैं परसों कह रहा था कि पर्दे हटा दो, तो हमें अच्छा दिखाई देने लगेगा, यहां बिजली की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। पर्दा लगा कर बिजली जलाई जाती है, इसे आसानी से रोका जा सकता है। लेकिन कोई सुनता नहीं है। मैं बहुत सी किफायत की बातें बता सकता हूं। पैदावार करो, किफायत करो, इसके इलावा कोई हल नहीं है। दूसरा यह है कि किसानों को जो रियायती बिजली दी जाती थी, अब सबसे अधिक किसान को रेट देना पड़ता है, इसमें आप कमी कराइये, तभी देश की पैदावार बढ़ सकेगी। इस देश के आर्थिक विकास में किसान सचमुच में सहयोगी है, लेकिन सबसे ज्यादा उपेक्षा इसी की की जाती है। किसान उजड़ रहा है। गांव में बरबाद हो रहा है। अच्छे-अच्छे किसानों के बच्चे आज शहरों में छोटी-छोटी नौकरियों के लिये परेशान फिरते हैं। इस बात को देखते हुए कि किसान को आप बिजली दो, जितनी उसे चाहिये, उतनी दो। बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति तो बिजली होशियारी से ले लेते हैं, उनको कभी दिक्कत नहीं होती है, कारखाने चलाने में...

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : लेने देने से कर लेते हैं (**व्यवधान**)।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : अगर यह लेन-देन भी बन्द हो जाये, तो बहुत बड़ा सुधार हो सकता है। सबको बिजली मिल सकती है। हमारे गांवों का आप विद्युतिकरण कर देते हैं, लेकिन

बिजली नहीं मिलती है। साथ ही अनावश्यक बिजली जलती रहती है। सड़कों पर दिन में बिजली जलती रहती है। अनेक बार मैं दिल्ली में देखता हूं कि दिन के समय बिजली जलती रहती है। मैं कई बार टोकता भी हूं। कोई देखने वाला नहीं है। रात में बिजली जले तो ठीक है, लेकिन रात को भी जरूरत से ज्यादा जलती है। इसको बचाया जा सकता है। शहरों में विलासिता के कामों के लिये अनावश्यक शों के लिये जो बिजली इस्तेमाल की जाती है, उसको बचाया जा सकता है। हमारी जो योजनायें अधूरी पड़ी हुई है, उनको पूरा किया जाये तथा किसानों को सस्ते रेट पर बिजली दी जाये। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं समाप्त करता हूं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-three minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock the Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall continue with the discussion on the Calling Attention Motion. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, while extending to you my warmest greetings on your election as the Deputy Chairman of the House, let me begin by extending my warm greetings to my friends in the Congress Party also who, at last, seem to have taken up the cause of power shortage. They are also beginning to feel concerned, as we have always been, over the method or attempt at privatisation in regard to an important public sector field. We are concerned just as any other Congressman... (*Interruption*)—I am not a Congress. We are concerned just as the Congressman, or, just as some congress people, to see that the national policies enunciated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, are properly guarded and protected. I do not think, they are going to be expanded. But we should see that at least, they are not eroded. I say this because the person who heads the Power Ministry, the person who holds the Powerportfolio seems to turn a philosopher sometimes. The Minister believes in spiritual power more than material power. While turning a philosopher,—he turns to philosophy and himself becomes a philospher—he enunciates certain theories and certain norms which are not very much aligned to the policies of the Indian National Congress even. May I remind you, Madam Deputy Chairman, that he was the person who, long back, had propounded the theory of Presidential form of Government for the country? That provoked a big controversy. The philosopher had a Goddess to worship. Therefore, he propounded the theory, perhaps, with the blessings of the Goddess he worshipped. Now it seems that philosopher has a new God and because of the blessing of the new God he is turning to a new philosiphy, the philosophy of privatisation of the public sector. That is most unfortunate. Madam Deputy Chairman, the Power Minister is at the moment absent. We are discussing the power crisis and he is absent, he has deputised, of course, most hon, gracious lady Minister, but at a time when this House was considering the important question of power crisis in the country, the head of the Power Ministry should have been present here.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: With your permission, Madam, may I interrupt? There is another Calling Attention motion on the coal sector in the other House.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the business of the House could have been adjusted in that way. This was the responsibility of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and this is the respect being shown to the House of Elders. You have referred to the responsibility to the Elders in your own speech as far as I remember in the newspaper. This is the respect being shown to the House of Elders.

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

Since I come from Bengal, let me speak for Bengal. The power crisis in Bengal is well known and it is continuing over decades. It only indicates the lacunae in the process of planning that our country adheres to Madam, we took to planning in the year 1952. Even after 34 years of planning, after having Planning Commission, economists, advisers and important Ministers, the country is facing power problem. The power problem is on the increase and it is assuming alarming proportions. This only indicates the lacunae in the policy that the Government is pursuing. This only indicates the purposelessness of the planning, this only indicates the imbalance in the policy and planning that have been pursuing.

Madam, I should say the policy of the Government of India in regard to the power crisis in West Bengal is amazing and unusual. I do not say it is a case of political discrimination, I can only say that their attitude is unusual and amazing. It is necessary that the repairs and replacements are carried out in the Santhaldih thermal power station, but the fund has not been sanctioned. Even though the repair has become overdue, the funds are not there. For the new Kalaghat thermal power project which is being built up, we need funds. The work has been held up. There have been sermon from the power Ministry that they will give you money only if the set-up is changed, as if the funds belong to them only. This set-up was changed, a consortium was formed but the fund is still not forthcoming. This is the attitude of the Power Ministry shown to the alarmingly increasing power problem in the country, not only in West Bengal alone.

Thirdly, we have submitted to them that three-four projects be set up in West Bengal, one in Bakreshwar, the other at Mezia and the third at Sagardighi.

The projects are not being cleared. May I know why? Sometimes back there was a news that the Soviet Union is being given the responsibility of building up thermal power Stations in Bakreshwar. They are waiting for the visit of Comrade Gorbachev. The next day another news came that the Soviet Union was quoting high price and so it is going to West Germany. This is how, Madam, our Ministers are blowing hot and cold. Everytime there is a leakage in the press and we are the victims. New projects are deliberately being delayed. This is not only the case with regard to West Bengal but this is the case with many parts of the country which is increasing alarmingly the shortage of power. Even the Power Minister is powerless to clear the case expeditiously. Even power does not work. He lacks energy. I do not say she lacks energy because I know it is he who heads the Ministry. Therefore, he lacks the energy to clear the projects expeditiously. It is a problem of lack of energy even in the case of power portfolio. Since I come from West Bengal, therefore my point is generally about West Bengal. But I do not mean to say that he has been very much energetic in clearing the power projects of other States of the country. (Time bell rings)... Madam, you will kindly allow me a few more minutes. With your gracious self in the Chair, I expect a little indulgence, motherly, womanly indulgence.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: He is appealing to your spirituality.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam Chairperson, let me give you another example. Farraka was built with a very big hue and cry as if Farraka power project is going to solve the power problem of the entire Eastern region. What did you promise? You promised West Bengal 50 MW of power. What did we get? We are getting not more than 15-20 MW. This is the gap between the promise and the performance of this particular Ministry on whose performance the performance of the entire economy depends. As is wellknown, power is the life-line of the entire economy of the whole country and the nation. This is the most interesting imbalance which is there between the promise and the performance.

Madam, then I come to the astounding part of my complaint and I would

like the Minister to let me know categorically why, when the country is suffering from acute shortage of power, Government of India's Power Department has almost decided to abandon the two power units under DVC at Durgapur. Let me expect, Madam, that Madam Minister will kindly listen to me and straightaway let me know whether it is a fact. I have a letter from the Union. My point is, two units in Durgapur are being closed down, are on the point of being closed down. What is the reason? The reason is that there was a fire, there was an accident last year—maybe on 25th of September 1985—involving two power units in Durgapur. Therefore they have almost decided, instead of replacing it, to abandon it. What is the background story? The background story is, from 1965—i.e. about 20 years back—there were a number of minor incidents in these two units. At the time of installation—these units were installed by a German firm—there were some problems; it was not properly installed. Therefore, a number of accidents took place from the very beginning. After a number of incidents had happened, Government appointed an enquiry committee known as Bhattacharya Committee. That Bhattacharya Comittee had recommended categorically, as far back as 20 years ago, that fire would again take place if some emergent steps were not taken. What were those steps? These were—a new DC oil pump should be introduced in place of old turbo oil pump; secondly, they categorically suggested that the oil tank should not be near the vicinity of the turbo-boiler and generator. So it was a faulty planning made by the multinationals that were invited from West Germany for setting up the power generating station. That was the fault from the beginning. And this was recommended twenty years back. The Power Ministry is so wise and so full of energy that it did not have time, even in a span of 20 years, to execute the recommendations of Bhattacharya Committee. What was the result? The result was that on 23rd October, 1985, there was a devastating fire. This devastating fire destroyed the two units. Destruction of two units took place because the recommendations were not carried out. Madam, I am only reading out a small statement given to the authorities by one of the two workers who had risked their life to extinguish the fire. Unfortunately, he belongs to AITUC. He had given a small statement about what he had actually seen. The name of the gentlemen is Subhas Roy, on duty on the date of the fire accident and this is the statement he submitted to the authorities from hospital. He belongs to my Union and he has given a statement from the hospital. What does he say? He says:

> "I was on OT duty. At about 1200 hours control panel called us. My Assistant Controller asked me to check I.D. fan. It was in vibration. I checked it and found as previous. Then I came back to the panel and found the turbine operative was busy in his work along with some other operative. Suddenly at that time some smoke arose. I, along with N.C. Das, another operative, rushed to the magazine floor to see what had happened. We saw flames at the back oil tank."

Madam, the oil tank is there till now, even after 20 years, notwithstanding the recommendation made by the Bhattacharya Commission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May I now request you to sum up, please?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Two or three minutes more, Madam. As you see, I have my points. He further states:

> "Then we, along with fire operator, Shri Prasad, tried to extinguish the fire with a 35-gallon fire extinguisher which was in the magazine floor, but our attempt was in vain because the fire extinguisher did not operate. I came on to the operation floor. While crossing the passage in between two turbines, a sudden blizzard of smoke flew towards the east and I fell down unconscious."

This is a statement by a heroic worker. What does it mean? It means the recommendation of the Bhattacharya Com-

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

mission was not executed and therefore the fire took place. Secondly, the fire extinguisher did not work. Just imagine! We had been discussing the dangers and consequences of having atomic power generators and the Minister had been confident enough to stand up and say, "I have set up a committee of scientists to see that no hazard will be there." But, that Ministry and that Government cannot even arrange for successful operation of fire extinguishers. The fire extinguisher did not work and because it did not work there was a colossal damage. Because the power extinguisher did not work, the Government has decided, not to replace it but to abandon the project. Whose responsibility was it to maintain the working of the fire extinguishers? It is again the Central Government's responsibility. The Central Industrial Security Force has the responsibility of maintaining the fire preventive agencies. Madam Chairperson, this is the situation of the anarchy, chaos, purposelessness, irresponsibility and lack of competence in the leaders of the Power Ministry.

Madam Chairperson, therefore, I demand categorically that the culprits who are responsible for the damaging fire in this DVC power plant must be brought to book. There was a commission. Where is the report of that commission? The report of the commission must be submitted to Parliament and the persons who are responsible for the colossal loss to the nation must be brought to book. Not only that. It means a colossal loss of the generating capacity. It also means loss of jobs to a few hundreds of the workers. Therefore, that report must come.

Secondly, I demand that the two power plants in the DVC which are proposed to be abandoned must not be abandoned. They have to be repaired. Thirdly, I demand that the West Bengal projects must be cleared immediately. All the West Bengal projects have to be cleared immediately. Fourthly, I demand that money for the replacement and repair of the thermal power stations in West Bengal must be given. Fifthly, I demand that the Minister herself must state whether the Industrial Policy, of 1956 is being stealthily changed. Why do you change the Policy stealthily? Do it openly if you have the courage of conviction. And I demand a categorical statement that power generating plants are not going to be handed over to Tatas and Birlas in the private sector because, for them what is important is the profit and not national interest. I demand that power must be kept in the State sector.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for the kind indulgence.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Gorbachev has invited private enterprise in the Soviet Union!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Bijoya Chakravorty. Not present. Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): I am deeply obliged, Madam Deputy Chairman.

It is needless to emphasise the importance of electricity because Lenin the Great had said that if you take electricity to every nook and corner of a country, development will automatically follow.

So, now the question remains not of the importance but of how to generate adequate electricity power in this country, what should be the mode and method that we should adopt as a short-term policy to fill in the gap which has been pointed out by various speakers and what should be done as a long-range policy. My simple contention is that we have taken recourse to the conventional methods of generating electricity. My thesis is that we should pay more attention to the non-conventional method of generating electricity looking to the conditions, requirement and other factors in the country. I think Shri Babul Reddy was quite right when he pointed out some of the non-conventional methods of generating electricity. While I say so, I will confine only to that argument.

The two major conventional methods followed in this country are thermal and hydel. Hydel requires two things—good rains or storage of water and sufficient place where dams or reservoirs could be built. In the absence of rain or storage of water, it is hampered, it has been said by some of the speakers. So far as the thermal power is concerned, of course, coal is the main commodity which is required, and I do not want to enter into an ideological discussion on how long this commodity, coal, will be available to us in this country. But, however, the question remains.

In my own district, a thermal power plant was installed much before for 15 mw., but it is not working properly. It is giving only 2 mw. at present.

Similarly in Tanda in Faizabad District, Madam Indira Gandhi installed a thermal power plant with a capacity of 400 mw. I am told that one machine will be kept in reserve and that only three machines will be working. So, it will generate only 300 mw. which cannot meet the requirements of the two districts. And I am talking of those districts where there is no pressure of industries. It will be only for agricultural purposes. This shows that the demand has increased tremendously. Therefore, Sir, I contend that the thermal power plants alone cannot meet the requirement.

About nuclear, much has been said about its problem especially after the Chernobyl incident, its accident proneness, the caution. About that we are discussing every day in this House, in the Question Hours always, that it may become hazardous. So, I feel that we should think about that caution from the very beginning because for installing it a huge sum of money will be required and also whether that can meet the requirements of the country.

So far as the other conventional methods are concerned, about the diesel power generation it has been found that it is very costly.

There is one more factor of hydel. I recently visited Himachal Pradesh which is a State self-sufficient in electricity generation. I asked the Chief Minister how his State had become self-sufficient in electricity generation. He said, "We do not prepare dams of the usual hydel system. But we take recourse to rivers only for generaung electricity. The problem of the State is for six months. They are under snow So, they had to switch over to another method of preparing two generating stations under ground. So that is one of the problems for rivers. Gas is a very important commodity. It is required for so many other things. Therefore, instead of thinking very much about this conventional methods for generating electricity, my request to the hon. Minister is kindly to consider diverting financial resources to other non-conventional methods. As Mr. Babul Reddy has said there are so many varieties of it, but looking to the conditions, circumstances and situation of this country we can restrict only to two or three. I will point out, as it has been said by many speakers that solar energy in this country is in abundance. When during the summer the people of the country were sweating we were taken to a place where some collaboration with India was done by a Swedish company. They told us that at least these three sources of non-conventional energy are very much important. I am talking about the centralised sources i.e. solar, tidal and wind. These are available in abundance in this country. But, as I studied in Switzerland and learnt more about it later on, I hope that the hon. Minister will testify my contention that they will be cheaper and they will not hamper our other resources. For instance, diesel will not be wasted for producing electricity and gas would not be wasted. Even coal could be saved and utilised for other purposes. So, from solar, wind and tidal sources, which are in abundance in this country, we can produce electricity. In Orissa we have a Suraj Mandir. That is quite apparent. Sun is everywhere, wind is everywhere and the tidal waves are available both on the Eastern and Western sector of our country. Apart from these centrailsed non-conventional sources of energy, we have other indigenous sources like the Gobar gas. If we take recourse to all these, I think we can meet

[Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh]

our growing needs of electricity and fill the gap between the demand and supply.

Recently I have seen even in Orissa that electricity is being generated on a very large scale with the help of wind and sun. I think the hon. Minister will consider these suggestions of mine and revert our resources back from those dangerous areas for generating electricity.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA (Tamil Nadu): After the Russian Revolution was over, Comrade Lenin declared a country has to generate more power, if it wants to become a major power; and today we see Russia remains a Super-power in the world. But unfortunately in India we have not paid due attention to the power sector. I am sorry to say that even the Seventh Plan has not given due consideration to the power sector. In the year 1985-86, the power generation has increased from 157 billion to 170 billion, which is 8.6 per cent growth rate. But, it is lower than the growth rate of the previous pear—1984-85 when it was 11.9 per cent. My first question to the hon. Minister would be what has been the reason for the decrease in the growth rate of power generation. As far as my own State of Tamil Nadu is concerned, the demand is 16300 million units, but the power generation is only 15,000 million units. If there is any failure of monsoon even this 15,000 million unit generation is affected. So, we have to seek other avenues to get more power.

The Mettur Thermal Plant was envisaged on the basis that it will get uninterrupted coal supply from Singareni, but there was strike there and Mettur thermal plant could not get coal supply. We had to get coal from Orissa with the result the transport cost has increased to Rs. 350 per tonne. So I would like to say that this is one of the reasons, why the cost of power generation is increasing.

3 P.M.

Madam, similarly, the Tuticorin power plant is getting coal from Chandrapur in Maharashtra. You will be surprised to learn that the Tuticorin power plant is employing more than 100 persons to pick up the stones from the coal supplied by Chandrapur colliery. The ash content is also very high in Indian coals. It is more than 50 per cent. But the ash content in Australian coal is only 15 per cent. This is one of the reasons why the Government of Tamil Nadu imported coal from Australia. The Centre had been kind enough to grant permission last year to import one lakh tonne of coal from Australia. This year also, we hope, the Centre would grant permission to import coal from Australia.

Madam, many projects are pending with the Central Government. This delay in sanctioning projects also results in power shortage, not only in power shortage but in cost escalation also. So the Government should immediately sanction all the projects pending with the Central Government.

Regarding Neyveli Lignite project, a feasibility report has been sent to the Government of India for the third mine cut. But unfortunately the Seventh Plan has not included that project in the plan allocation.

Madam, the sharing of power by setting up super thermal power stations was introduced by the National Thermal Power Corporation in the year 1971. The Neyveli power project was originally to be commissioned in 1960's. Since the Government did not allocate funds in time, the project got delayed and was completed in 1977-78. So I would like to demand that the power sharing will not apply to Neyveli Lignite Corporation particularly when Tamil Nadu itself is in shortage of power. This is one of my requests.

Madam, there is regional imbalance. Some States are surplus in power and some States are in deficit. So I would like to know from the Minister, what steps the Government is going to take to remove the regional imbalance. An expert committee has expressed an opinion that Himachal Pradesh can supply power to the whole country if its hydel projects are properly utilised. I would like to know, whether this aspect was explored by the Government. Whether the Government has also explored the possibility of generating solar energy and wind mill

energy which are also comparatively cheaper.

Madam, the cumulative power losses of Electricity Boards are now more than Rs. 4,000 crores and in the next few years it is likely to reach more than Rs. 10,000 crores. So what steps the Government is going to take to make up the losses and to set the things right for the State Electricity Boards?

The transmission and distribution losses are also increasing year by year. It is said that the transmission losses should not go beyond 12 per cent, but unfortunately in India it is more than 25 per cent which is also one of the reasons for the power degeneration. The energy theft is estimated to be about Rs. 7,000 crores. Unless and until there is active connivance of the power board employees, this is not possible. So I would like to know from the Minister, whether any responsibility will be fixed on these employees in order to check power thefts

Madam, these are my humble questions.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Madam, when I am addressing you for the first time, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the Deputy Chairman of this House on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and myself.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Madam, I am afraid that the calling attention notice given by our hon. friend, Shri Kalpnath Rai has not been taken up in the spirit that it should have been taken. Now, I use the exact words "to call the attention of the Minister of Energy to the power crisis in the country causing loss of production in the agricultural and industrial sectors and steps taken by the Government in this regard." The electricity problem is really a great problem. It has its own importance. I do not obejct to what the hon. Members have said about the various projects pending with the Government of India. But right now there is a crisis, the crisis that is being faced by the agricultural sector. The wheat crop is coming. It has been sown only recently and it needs power supply. The problem, to my mind, at the present moment is one of management of power. The question is of management. Scarcity is there. There is no doubt about it. Starvation is there. But we have to distribute this starvation—not that one man should get more and another should be fully starved. So my request to the hon. Minister will be that she should immediately call a conference of State Electricity Ministers of the wheat-growing areas, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and tell them that the pump-sets which the agriculturists need to use must be given power and they must come out with concrete proposals as to for how many hours in the day or in the night any person who has got a tubewell or a pump-set will get electricity. This way alone the crisis can be overcome I say this because, Madam, two days back there was a conference in Srinagar addressed by our Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah. He had called the Electricity Board engineers. He said: "We are facing a crisis. I want that you should shut off for only one day in each sector, and that day must be fully known to the persons concerned—that on Monday this area will not get power, on Tuesday this area will not get power and so on. That should be ensured. If there is any deviation from this arrangement, I will hold the engineers responsible for it." I would request the hon. Minister that she should immediately convene a conference of Electricity Ministers because we need power for the wheat crop. Otherwise the crop will fail if this step is not immediately taken.

About the other points, since I do not have time at my disposal, I will not discuss them. I think that the power problem is such a big problem that we need a ful debate on it. I request you, Madam, to tell the Government that a full day's discussion on power generation should be held so that each State will put before the Government its own problems and the hon. Minister can react to it. But right now the question of management of power

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is the main problem and I hope the Minister will kindly address herself solely to this problem so that this crisis is overcome. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीया, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से केवल एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूं। आप जानते हैं कि देश में आवश्यकता से अधिक बिजली की कमी है, यह सभी स्वीकार करते हैं। किसानों को बिजली की कमी के दिनों में रात्रि में बिजली की जा ी है। रात में रोशनी कम होने के कारण उसका समय नष्ट होता है। ऐसी स्थिति में म यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या मंत्री जी जो कवर्ड एरियाज हैं, उनमें एडस्ट्री को रात में बिजली देने और किसानों को दिन में बिजली देने पर विचार करेंगे ?

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : माननीया, अपना उत्तर प्रारम्भ करने से पहले अभी माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न करा है, इसके बारे में केवल यही कहूंगी कि उन्होंने जो सुझाव दिया है, उसके ऊपर गम्भीरता से विचार किया जायेगा।

Madam, at the very outset, I would like to congratulate you for the graciousness with which you have occupied this very august Chair. As a woman I feel equally honoured and I am sure... (*Interruptions*) That is a sentiment which is shared by every hon. Member of this august House.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Don't be partial. We are also equally proud.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I am very happy. That is why I say...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): He cannot be proud of being a woman.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I am proud that I am a man.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I am equally proud of being a woman, have no intention of changing. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIAMAN: Thank you for the congratulations.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, I know that power is a very powerful factor in life, in growth, in development, in the overall quality of life. But today as the discussions are held in the House, I realise it has repercussions which are much wider; it radiates things; the repercussions lead not only to power in physical terms, in MWs and KWs and in units but also in terms of philosophy and spirituality. We have heard some honourable Member waxing eloquent. I think this is precisely the power which the power sector holds. The more the power we provide, the more the capacity we give to the poor to have leisure and the attitude and approach to think of other things also. And precisely it is that which leads us to focus the maximum attention to giving priority to our rural sector. The idea is very valid and a very salient point has been made by the opening speaker that it is the rural area which makes the priority, which makes the majority of our villagers; that they deserve the maximum help there. So also the industry. Without these two there can be no development. They depend upon each other, they are co-related and are complementary to each other.

Having said these preliminary remarks, though it is not very directly connected. I must also say that though power is being discussed here, I think the House also needs a little energisation so far as attendance is concerned, from time to time, because they are so sure of the working of the Power Ministry of the Energy Ministry, they know that the work will be done and the Ministry has the capacity of reaching the target, of achieving the target, that they are resting quite comfortably and they feel that we shall achieve the target. Now I shall only quote some of the figures. Some honourable Member mentioned why it is that generation instead

of rising, is decreasing. I don't see any signs of decrease whatsoever. I feel for the current year 1986-87 our generation target of 190 billion units has been fixed comprising 127.8 billion units thermal, 5.2 billion nuclear, 57 billion units hydel. This is an increase of 11.8 per cent over the actual generation last year. I would like the honourable Members to ponder: Are there many industries in the country or many of the utilities which are in a position to raise their output by nearly 12 percent? This is a question which I am posing to the honourable Members here. Therefore, this does not show any sign of degeneration or reduction; on the contrary, we shall try to reach our target, if it is possible, if we have more funds, as some honourable Members have been pleading, if we have more funds at our disposal we shall certainly try to put in our very best; we have weaknesses and we shall try to remedy them. We shall put in our best efforts so that. We could inject greater energy into the rural areas, into the industrial areas, and show a better quality of life to the people. Shortage has been prevailing for a long time and that is due because as we go on installing greater capacity, generate greater capacity, demand also is rising with it and it is something healthy; that shows the nation wants more and more generation of power, it wants greater capacity and it wants utilise it. Our expectations are rising along with that. During the Sixth Plan we found there was power shortage varying from 6.7 per cent to 12.6 per cent. Even from 1980 to 1985-86 we find there has been a shortage. But all the same we have been trying to reduce the shortage. But there has been a cut, a drastic cut, in our Plan, in what we envisaged, from Rs. 65000 crores to Rs 34000 crores; naturally we have to make the maximum out of that funds. Therefore, I am very happy that all the Members here have realised that we need more and more money in order to generate more and more capacity, in order to be able to do greater service to the nation.

Before I go to the next point, one honourable Member spoke about the policy decision. I think it was a Member from West Bengal who asked: Why are we stealthily—if I am right in saying that—changing the Industrial Policy Resolution and if we have the courage, we should come out with it? But I don't think we are in the habit of doing anything stealthily, least of all in power; power is not something which can be stolen and kept into the pocket. Whatever we do, our objectives are clear, our aims are clear, our targets are clear and our limitations also are clear and we stand by the Industrial Policy Resolution as it was before. But we also say that it does not preclude us from expanding or replacing the private sector things as they stand. But, at the same time, if the national interest warrants it and if it is needed in the national interest, we can also go in for generation: Is it not the voice of the nation when every Member of this House from this side or that side says that we need more power? That means that it is the national requisite and if it is something which stands on merit and if it is something which is within the framework of our policy which we have not changed I think, we should go ahead and we should go ahead with a kreater speed and momentum. We have allowed captive power plants, Madam in the private sector and we have encouraged them to come forward and we would encourage them to come forward so that they can have something and the rest can go into the national grid and from the grid the other regions will get and, eventually, we want to have the national grid and we are trying to have and we are going in that direction and then we will be in a position to see that the national grid comes at a faster pace also. We find that up to 25 MW, the private sector captive plants can go ahead without the concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority. But, above that, they have to have the concurrence. We would like to encourage the private sector and have their own. Not only that. Even if they want to have for a class of industries and they want to have or set up a bigger captive power plant among four or five industries, a bigger captive power plant, then it is for them to work out amongst themselves in such a manner that they have a big captive power plant so that that money which would have gone from us can be taken to the villages or to some other industries where it is otherwise needed. At

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the same time, when we are getting some private sector's suggestions or proposals, we are also examining them and they will be examined on merits in accordance with the policy that we have had and, therefore, I would certainly like to say that there is no question of stealing electricity or taking anything through the back doors. This is a Government which is chosen by the people and it has come on merit and it has come because the people wanted it to be there and if the people do not want us to be there, we will willingly and democratically go. But so long as we are there, we are committed to standing by the people and whatever we are able to do we will do to see that electricity reaches the people and it reaches the remotest areas or the far off areas and the areas where it is not available just now.

I would also like to say one thing with regard to the figures. Some honourable Member said that we are tardy in our approach to the rural areas. I would like not to convince people where they would not like to be convinced. But, just for placing on records the facts, I would like to say that some years back, when the Rural Electrification Corpoartion came into existence, about seventeen years back, we had very few villages electrified in the country. But today—not that we have completed all—I think 67 per cent of the villages in the country have been electrified. I am not saying that every home in the village is electrified. We have to see and try to go in that direction. At least some milestone has been reached. But we have still many miles and miles to go in that direction. But the target is clear and the objective is equally clear and we are very happy that the REC has done some good work. But so far as our weak areas are concerned that is the tribal areas, the Harijan bastis, where the backward and the underdeveloped areas are there and which fall within our new 20-Point Economic Programme. I think no honourable Member would disagree with me if I say that the priority should be given to this sector.

Apart from that, Madam, I would say that a tremendous impact has been made recently in power generation as the Working Group, as I have earlier said, had recommended an addition to the installed capacity during the Seventh Five Year Plan to an extent of about 30,000 M.W. However, due to the resources constraint, to which we are fully alive, the Planning Commission had finalised an additional capacity of 22,245 MW only. Naturally, we have to make up this gap and the shortage has to be faced and, as one honourable Member said, this shortage is there and the question is how we share this shortage amongst ourselves so that when one State needs assistance, some other State goes to its assistance. We have done this before. Whenever there has been a problem of shortage because of drought or famine or cyclone or some such natural calamity or any other unanticipated things arising like this, some States which had a surplus have rushed to the assistance of the States which were facing the crisis. We have to narrow down this gap. We are trying our very best to do it. We are even trying to go in for bilateral assistance so that if we commission expeditiously some of these projects which are in the ripe stage, that power we will be generating soon and that will be placed at the disposal of the people.

The shortage at the end of the 8th Plan is expected to be around 20,000 MW. Efforts are being made to consider the new projects subjects to the availability of resources. Let us see how much resources we get. Madam, I quite agree that this is a matter which needs a full discussion. Irrespective of party affiliations and without any consideration of South, East, West and North Zone, if this House in its wisdom decides and if we decide that power sector is one sector which is in a position to empower the people of the country to rise from poverty and to rise to better status and quality of life, I think we can easily stress upon the Planning Commission that this is the wish of the people of India who have come from every part of the country. That will assist the Ministry in getting more power and more money. We can assure the people that we will be able to help all the State Boards. Many of them are good. Many of them are not so good. I will appeal to the wisdom of the Members and I think that we do need more and more

resources, whether it is external assistance or bilateral assistance or World Bank or whether it is from our conservation which is very necessary or whether it is by reducing our transmission and distribution losses which are very high and which need to be brought back. We have to go not only by the Act which is being passed by the Parliament. We have to take steps and we are taking steps. I do hope that in the course of time, with some incentives and with some disincentives, we will be in a position and we will try to see that the transmission losses which have risen to 21 per cent are reduced. Some may be due to technical reasons and some may be due to theft. But they have to be brought down. That is where we seek assistance of the Members. Whenever they go to their constituencies or to their States or to some other parts of the country, they must emphasise that this is something whcih is controllable. This is something criminal. This is not only something which has a law and a penalty behind it. The social factor must also be there. It is something which should not be excused. Every MW of energy that we produce or that we generate costs one crore of rupees and one per cent of the PLF that we generate costs 500 crores of rupees. Therefore, conservation and transmission and distribution losses play a very big hand in the altogether availability of power.

Madam, in the guidelines also we have been saying that agriculture must have a priority. I would like to place some facts before the hon. Members. I don't say that the facts are foolproof, but this is the information that I have at my disposal. We find that there are certain States which have no restriction in the agricultural sector so far as power supply is concerned. Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharshtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and West Bengal, except during the peak hours in the evening, have no restriction on the agricultural sector. This is the position for the last month of Octobed. Either they have power for 9 hours or 5-1/2 hours or 10 hours or 17 hours. That is, they have power between 7-1/2 and 22 hours. It varies from State to State. But every State has been trying to see, according to its own availability, that agricultural sector does get the necessary electricity. (*Interruptions*) I have just read. If there is any particular Stae, I can tell about that. According to the availability of power supply, there is no restricion to the agricultural sector during October in Kerala. That is the position.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: What about Tamil Nadu?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: HT consumers connected to rural feeders are subjected to grouping restrictions.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: What is the percentage of power cut in U.P.?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I will try to get that during the discussion, if possible. In your State, you were very much in charge of agriculture. U.P. has power for 7 to 10 hours per day which is supplied to agriculture. I think you still have a lot of following there and also great respect. Now, this is one thing. Apart from that Madam. I think, concerning the importance attached to the non-conventional sources of energy, it is a very valid point and we are fully alive to this, not only from the point of view that this thermal, does requires a lot of money to be spent on it, but Hydro is definitely cheaper. It has a longer gestation period. But now we have evolved a procedure and we decided in principle that once the hydel project is cleared by the CEA, the infrastructure can start. And once they get investmnet clearance, naturaly we can go ahead with the plan. That will reduce the gestation period by two to three years. And we are trying to encourage the States to have a greater participation. We have changed the earlier formula. Now the States will be entitled to have 12 per cent free power. And that way, it will encourage them to share and to come into that line.

Madam, I am happy to say that we are trying to tap all sources. We have a number of wind farms. But we can have more. Then there are solar energy, gobar gas, bio-bas, waste heat, ocean and oil also. In some, we are experimenting. In some, we have gone ahead. But there are mere mini, micro, small and all types

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of schemes which we are trying. And we are going in our own way to see how every diversified scheme can fall into a pattern to suit the type of people, the quality of life, their approach and their attitudes and the places where they are living. Some of them are very far off and therefore transmission line is really a difficult thing. Therefore, small schemes are really useful to them. In some places climate is such that it is very difficult to make these things. Therefore, in any type of thing which is fixed into it, the States have been given the freedom. They can go ahead with any scheme up to Rs. 5 crores without any concurrence. It is an entirely up to them. One point which I am emphasising is that today we have only about 16 per cent of the power in our hands, and 84 per cent lies with the States. What happens in the State, no one would be more familiar than those people like you, Madam, coming from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. And we are fully conscious of their limitations and their strengths. There are so many pulls, there are so many pressures and it is very, very difficult to operate. And we have some of the finest people as Chairman in some of the States and not so equally fine in others. But some of them have made some allegations, and some charges against the officers. I would appeal to the hon. Members that if there are any senior officers in any of these Boards of whom they can give us any proof or anything in writing, we should certainly look into it. We are not averse to take any action. It has to be done...

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH (Maharashtra): May I interrupt the Minister just for a minute? Madam, Deputy Chairman, I would like to clarify for the sake of the record because the hon. Minister hts referred to both Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in the same breath that in our State of Maharashtra our transmission loss is very, very low as compared to UP. where it is very very high.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I take your point and we shall do our best. When I am speaking, I am speaking not only for UP just now but I am speaking of the political angle. But I stand corrected. It is 19 per cent. And Maharashtra is definitely better. But even then, it can do even better. And we shall try to rise up to that level.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: May I interrupt for a minute?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Let me complete. Madam, I was trying to say that it is not 'A' State or 'B' State. It is the State Electricity Boards... (*Interruptions*) Madam, the State Electricity Boards and their entire structure have to be reviewed. We are doing it. Having some of the best Chairmen also and some of the best engineers also, in the totality of the country, I am trying to meet them on various occasions. It is not only now that a demand has come for calling a meeting of the Ministers of Power. I am very happy because it reiterates what I have been doing. And we will do it in future also. As a matter of fact, I have fixed a meeting of all the Power Ministers of all the States in January. And the date is subject to their convenience and subject to their availability. But it has already been done. I have already met six Ministers of these States whose performance and whose PLF is below the national average. We met them in July, and also 12 Chairmen of those States inter-mingling where performance is good ,or is below average, so that they learn from each other and try to advise others. In this manner, I think, we have had a very good interaction. And immediately, day after tomorrow, onwards, we are meeting the Ministers of those six States individually, starting with Uttar Pradesh on 22nd, then, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal, where we find that their PLF is still below national average. Therefore, this exercise is going on. I am happy that Members have welcomed the idea of having a meeting of the Power Ministers. As a matter of fact when I wrote to them, I had desired that all the Chairman of the State Electricity Boards must not be bound by any agenda, but in their capacity as people who have been in the line for a long time, they should come out and tell us what they really feel and how we can rectify the situation. We are getting their suggestions and I think we look forward to

some very useful suggestions... (*Interruptions*). Let me complete, and I shall come to your point, Mr. Gopalsamy. What I want to say is that we are poised for a break; we are poised for a take-off stage. This is the time. In June we were running short of the PLF. That was in June, and we were facing a lot of difficulty. And today, we are in a position to say, at the end of October, that we are ahead by 10.2 per cent over our last year's achievement. This is in spite of our difficulties on the labour front, floods and droughts and such natural calamities. These things are there. But I can tell the hon. Members that the Power Department of the Ministry of Energy is alive to all the points that have been raised by hon. Members. We shall not falter and we shall not fail.

Regarding certain specific points that have been raised, if the hon. Members want to hear, I can deal with them. But one thing I want to say that apart from this, we are also trying to utilise gas. We are looking after this aspect in the Petroleum Ministry and I can say with some conviction that we can also utilise more and more gas in future so that we have greater availability and when we are building the HBJ pipeline, we shall have some three power stations and I think gas will also be available to us for our future needs. About U. P. because Kalp Nath Rai started with it, the installed capacity is 4266 MW. and out of this, much of it is thermal and hydro, and the shortage is mainly due to—I am sorry to say; but the fact remains—unsatisfatcory performance of thermal stations of the U. P. State Electricity Board. PLF has been as low as 37.3 per cent and this is where we have to find the management factor and the accountability factor. We have to go to the root of the cause and see how we can rectify the shortages. Then, there are industrial relations also because of many unions, and I think hon. Members are more aware of this factor than myself. Then, renovation and modernisation programme throughout the 34 stations is progressing. In some stations it is progressing well; in others, not so well. But funds provided are not being utilised. This is where I appeal to hon. Members to see that renovation and modernisation programmes are carried out and funds which are allocated for their States, are utilised because according to our records, the funds are not being fully utilised.

Then the other point is about Maharashtra. Some schemes have already been cleared. Mr. Kulkarni raised the point about Maharashtra [The Vice Chairman (Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee) in the Chair] Some of these schemes have already been cleared by the CEA, Urban Waste Heat, Koyna hydel, Warna hydel. Bombay Suburban, Sardar Sarovar, with a total capcity of 2,018 MW. Mr. Kulkarni is not here. But I can say that in the seventh Plan, a capacity of 1846 MW will be added in Maharashtra. There is something more in regard to Maharashtra, but since Mr. Kulkarni is not here, I will skip it.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: We are here.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: All right. All these projects are in the State sector. Hon. Members will have to see how they can be pushed through, how they can be expedited. Chandrapura Unit VII: The State has yet to obatin coal linkage and environmental clearance. You should help in getting them cleared so that we can expedite these projects and place sufficient power at your disposal, at the disposal of the people of Maharashtra. Parli Extension: State authorities have yet to obtain coal linkage and environmental clearance. Khaperkheda Extension: State has yet to obtain coal linkage. Now, about Karnataka ...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is in India. You carry on.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I look upon this from that angle only. I am glad, you said that. Madam, Karnataka had to face a lot of difficulties.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is part of Tamil Nadu. The power sector being very impartial, takes an overall and just view, whicheve-State it may be. Therefore. Karnataka is as much a part of India as any other part of the country. In Karnataka, the total installed capacity is 2,529 MW 2109 MW hydel and 420 MW thermal. Due

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to erratic rainfall, they had to face a lot of difficulties and they had to get assistance from other States. Now, the only thermal power staion is in Raichur, where two units of 210 MW are operating. After some initial teething problems, the uints have now stabilised. I am glad to say that. They are also getting assistance from the Ramagundam project.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, in regard to the Rayalaseema project, the project report was received in April, 1986. Environmental clearance is awaited. Coal linkage is to be established. I think, the State Government will look into this. They will have to look into the coal linkage part.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: What about another important project? Manuguru in Khammam district.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I will come to it later on.

(*Interruptions*)

No project report has been received by the CEA. You better take it up with the State Governmnet and send it to the CEA.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I have drawn your attention when I spoke on the Calling Attention Motion. Our Chief Minister has written a letter to the Centre about this. Every information has been given to the Centre. This has been pending for a long time. Nothing is pending with the State Government.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: All I can say at this stage is that no project report has been received by the CEA. Anyway, I will see what is the exact position and let you know.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Something is wrong at your end. In spite of repeated requests, in spite of repeated letters and in spite of our repeatedly raising this issue in the House, no action has been taken. That is why, I have drawn your attention to this today.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: You have drawn my attention. I have taken note of it. In any case, you ask the State Government to send another letter so that we can pay immediate attention and see whether it is lying at our end, if at all.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, in regard to the Cuddalore project, the project report is yet to be received in the CEA, by the Department of Power. In the case of the gas turbine project at Basin Bridge, fuel linkage is yet to be obtained by the State. We would like this to be expedited at the State level. CEA has already cleared the project. I would request the hon. Member from Tamil Nadu to take it up with State Government so that it can be expedited.

In regard to the Neyveli third mine cut, the project is yet to be cleared by the Departmnet of Coal. The project can be cleared after the fuel linkage is established. Some one mentioned about the Tuticorin project. No detailed project report, as required, has been received by the CEA for techno-ecenomic appraisal. Only a brief proposal for this 'joint sector' project has been received. I would wish my friend to see that they sent us fuller or more detailed report so that we could take it up immediately. (*Interruptions*) I will first refer to the circular. Someone mentioned about this. Presumably, this refers to the court case and a circular of Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board that the employees should not approach MPs, MLAs regarding service matters. This is an internal matter. We are not really consulted and we do not directly come into the picture. If they like, they can take it up with...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: On a point of order. The hon. Minister in his reply has referred to the chairmen of some of the State Electricity Boards. I have made a specific charge that the High Court has passed very severe stricutres on the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board. I have made the specific charge and what is your reply thereto?

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Madam, this is pending before the Supreme Court...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Please, do not interrupt.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I could have replied to you also but let

me complete about this particular thing. The hon. Member has mentioned about the specific charge. We shall look into it.

Coming to West Bengal Santhaldighi thermal power station, this is included in the renovation and modernisation programme, but the progress by the State, I am afraid, is slow and that has to be taken into account. In West Bengal, the installed capacity is 2658 MW, both thermal and hydro.

The power shortage in the State is mainly on account of an unsatisfactory performance of the West Bengal State Electricity Board Thermal Station at Santaldih and West Bengal Government Power Station at Durgapur. The PLF of the West Bengal State Electricity Boards is 42.7 per cent and the DPL is 242 per cent. Then there is the problem of industrial relations. There is the delay in implementation of on going projects. Therefore, you will realise that the funds are there but they are not fully being utilized the funds are placed at the disposal of the Government but they are not being utilized. I hope you will get these support of the West Bengal State Government to see that the projects are commissioned expeditiously so that we can generate greater power and give greater relief to the masses.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Through the hon. Minister I would plead that SEB' should not blindly keep on raising electricity traction charges also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I was not aware that the Railway Minister would also put a question (*Interruptions*) Sometimes, when the floods come and the trains do not operate, our charges also go higher. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is the headache for both the Ministries. Madam, I should have an opportunity to ask...

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I am not yielding (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Please do not keep on interrupting.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: I was talking about the Bakreswar project. You will be interested ... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Please allow her to complete her speech.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: First listen about this project. Bakreshwar project—3x210 MW—is being considered for bilateral financing and the offers which have been received are under evaluation.

I thought since some hon. Members were interested, so I should place the facts before them. These are some of the specific points which I tried to collect during the course of the discussion. And I would like to end by pleading for a spirit of camaraderie, spirit of understanding and above all not lacking in conviction about the very motivation and the intention of the Government that we are pledged to see that these two sectors—the rural agricultural and the industrial—receive the top priority. Madam, I think we agree on the same thought that power must be empowered, the finances must be raised, more resources must be found and in that I will plead, once again, through you, Madam, with all the Members to unite in feeling that the resources for this must be made larger. I would like to thank all the Members who have participated.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: What about Punjab?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): That item is closed now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, what about DVC. She lacks the energy to answer my question. What about the specific complaint about DVC? Has she spent up her energy?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I beg your pardon. Our energy does not go so easily.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Now we are taking up the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1986.